

It's a gene thing:
Researchers discover why some people remain resistant to the HIV virus.
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Bitchy art world dissected
in artist Julian Schnabel's new biopic Basquiat.
 see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 26 • No. 33 • 15 August 1996

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 25 years

Community center gets city funds

Supes, mayor back project, give \$1.2M

by Cynthia Laird

The Community Center Project (CCP), a group spearheading the drive to get a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community center in San Francisco, received financial support Monday, August 12, when the Board of Supervisors approved \$1.2 million to purchase a piece of Market Street property for construction of the center.

Mayor Willie Brown had earlier identified the city funds - leftover revenue from the expansion of Moscone Center - and endorsed using the money for the community center.

Dean Goodwin, the mayor's liaison to the gay community, said that \$1.1 million of city funds will be used to help acquire the project site, and the remaining funds will go toward development of the community center.

"This is by far our largest contribution to this project. It's a solid demonstration of unanimous political support for the project," said Scott Shafer, president of the CCP Board of Directors.

Shafer said he was equally pleased at Brown's commitment of city funds for the project.

"The mayor is committed to doing this," Shafer said.

The CCP has already located a proposed site at Market and Octavia streets. The planned facility of 48,000 square feet will include a renovated Victorian building, plus a newly constructed five to six-story building next door.

About \$75,000 of the city funds will be used immediately for environmental reviews and initial planning for the site, Shafer explained. If all goes as expected, the center's board of directors plans to purchase the site by November 1, he added. The entire project is expected to be completed by 1999.

In addition to the city's \$1.2 million, acquisition of the property is being made possible by funding from the city's Redevelopment Agency. Another \$1.5 million must still be raised from individuals, foundations, and businesses, Shafer noted.

The overall budget for the project is \$7.3 million, according to Shafer, who said he expects the city to contribute additional funds for construction from the Redevelopment Agency.

Additional money will be raised through a \$1.5 million capital campaign that is now being put together. The CCP board expects substantial support from corporations and foun-

page 23 ►

Gays rally in San Diego

Log Cabin fails to endorse Bob Dole

by Sandy DeWine

Candace Gingrich set the tone at a rally outside the Republican convention in San Diego Monday by invoking her own family. "I spoke to Mom today," the openly lesbian half-sister of House Speaker Newt Gingrich told the crowd, "and she gave me some advice: 'Candace,' she said, 'Be nice to your brother.'"

"I'll be nice to him when they start being nice to immigrants and other groups," was her response. According to her newly published autobiography, *An Accidental Activist*, Gingrich is no longer on speaking terms with her half-brother and she had no plans of attempting to see him in San Diego.

Other speakers at the rally included Elizabeth Birch, head of the Human Rights Campaign, whom Candace refers to in her book as "my boss"; Melinda Paras of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF); and Urvashi Vaid, a former NGLTF executive

director. They all maintained office space, along with GLAAD and other groups, in a "Media Center" storefront across from the convention center.

All the national groups took advantage of the media exposure the convention offered. Although local and network coverage may have been upstaged somewhat by pro-choice and anti-Prop 192 (CCRI) protests, the new all-news cable channel MSNBC and public radio interviewed Vaid and Rich Tafel of the Log Cabin gay Republican club.

Most of the week's activities were coordinated by a local group called "Voices '96." Although that group said at an information meeting in San Francisco during Gay Pride weekend they wanted convention activities to remain local and grassroots, they seem satisfied with the assistance they received from national organizations.

Gay Republicans declined to participate in any "Voices '96" staged events, saying they felt it was too much influenced by "labor."

page 23 ► Log Cabin's Rich Tafel.



Michael Botkin's last column

Editor's note: Bay Area Reporter columnist Michael C. Botkin died last Thursday evening, August 8, at his home in Bernal Heights. This column was written in October of last year.

Writing one's last column is certainly an odd and morbid task. It's not that I feel particularly closer to death than I have in a while - I stare it in the face every day - but my last opportunistic infection was so severe that if I hadn't recovered, I wouldn't have had any opportunity to say good-bye. When the OI with my name on it comes, it may not give me enough warning to put my affairs in order. So to hedge against this possibility, I'm writing it now, and hopefully, my partner will find it and get it published after my death.

Any writer who takes himself seriously, and also takes his readers seriously, wants to explain to himself and to them why he's been writing. My general drift should have been obvious from my writing, but I won't be around anymore to refute my critics, so this is my last chance to try and say where I was coming from and where I was going to.

As a freshman in college, I was fascinated when I encountered the Millgram study in peer pressure. This classic research put a "subject" in a room with nine "confederates" - experimenters pretending to be just other "subjects." They were assigned the task of telling the exercise leader which of three lines on a series of cards was the longest. In all cases, this was perfectly obvious, but all the confederates would, time after time, vote for what was patently not the longest line.

Most of the subjects voted with the majority, without raising any questions. The few who did not at first soon went along after a few rounds of being glared at by their sup-



Acting on instinct: Provocateur extraordinaire Michael C. Botkin gets nabbed by the SFPD during protests surrounding the filming of *Basic Instinct* here in 1991.

posed colleagues. I vividly remember the photograph of one of the rare holdouts, a pathetic crewcut nerd literally crying in despair as he, once again, insisted on reporting what his eyes told him instead of going along with the majority.

This is the story of my life. I would stand up and announce the obvious, and be reviled for my efforts. The boy who said, "The emperor has no clothes,"

was, in real life, no doubt torn limb from limb by the angry crowd for destroying their splendid illusion. It's not that I wanted to see all this stuff, I couldn't not see it - which most of my peers managed without any trouble. I also couldn't keep my damn mouth shut, and insisted on sharing my

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Queer Watch

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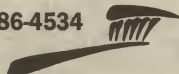
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There are several alternatives for mercury fillings if you are interested in having your amalgam fillings replaced or want to use another material for new fillings, such as gold-to-porcelain, and composite materials. To determine what is best for you, talk with your dentist about the relationship of such materials to your overall health and well being.

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'Each of us has a gift to share' – and AEF would like to sell yours

AIDS group seeks help with Sidewalk Fair

by Dennis Conkin

The AIDS Emergency Fund is seeking donations for its Fifth Annual Pine and Jones Sidewalk Fair, to be held August 24 and 25.

The fair will include a traditional sidewalk sale of new and used items, plus food, entertainment, and more, according to coordinator David Slocombe. It will be held in front of the historic Gate Restaurant, where the financial assistance group's first coin collection jar was started just nine years ago.

Since its inception, AEF has raised more than a million dollars, mostly from pennies and other coins dropped into scores of the collection jars that have become a familiar sight next to cash registers and office coffee machines throughout San Francisco.

The agency does not provide direct cash assistance, but distributes funds for emergency financial needs in the form of second-party payments, to vendors such as landlords and pharmacies, or utilities such as Pacific Gas and Electric and Pacific Bell. An estimated 3,200 people received the \$500 yearly grant in 1995.

"And thanks to years of everyday kindness by thousands of donors and volunteers, our slogan

'Every Penny Counts' rings truer than ever," Slocombe said.

Although he called AEF's 100 million penny milestone "incredible," Slocombe acknowledged that more is needed, pointing out that "thousands of our neighbors" are struggling every day with such financial basics as rent and utilities, as well as medical care and prescriptions.

"And we must continue to

it all: 'Sharing our love, now more than ever.' Each of us has a gift to share that will help meet the needs of the community. And even though the need is enormous, I hope everyone remembers that whatever the gift, every penny counts," Slocombe said.

In addition to the sidewalk sale, the event will feature a champagne brunch, a silent auction, and a raffle. Pioneering ho-

"Each of us has a gift to share that will help the community. And even though the need is enormous, I hope everyone remembers that whatever the gift, every penny counts."

—David Slocombe

raise money," he said, "so that people with AIDS won't have to face the financial burden of AIDS alone."

Less than six percent of the agency's budget is spent on fundraising, Slocombe said, because the non-profit group is committed to volunteer-based fundraising and relies on tremendous grass roots support.

"The AEF's simple motto says

mophile activist Hal Call has donated \$900 and a \$300 winner-designated travel prize. Other raffle prizes include a \$100 Macy's gift certificate. ▼

For more information about the annual Pine/Jones AEF fundraiser, contact David Slocombe at (415) 775-9145 or AEF at (415) 558-4999.

Hey Boo-Boo, that's a nice picinick basket Bears are having a picnic

by Mike Salinas

The Bears of San Francisco (BoSF) social group has scheduled one of Northern California's hairier outings for this Sunday, August 18. The group's second annual picnic at Ayala Cove on Angel Island will begin with a 9:30 a.m. ferry ride from Pier 43-1/2 in San Francisco. A second ferry, for later sleepers, will leave for the island at 11:30.

BoSF is a Bay Area social club for big hairy guys and their admirers. While not a non-profit group itself, its 200-plus members have raised and contributed more than \$35,000 to state, national, and local charities since it was founded in 1994.

Tickets for the picnic, including the round-trip ferry ride to Angel Island, are \$9. The group will supply water, a charcoal barbecue facility, and tables. Picnickers are to bring their own beverages, meat, and other food.

Angel Island is more than a place to eat, of course: according to BoSF members who went on last year's trip – 90 of them, in fact – it is a beautiful place to view all three Bay Area bridges; hike along scenic trails; play vol-

leyball; and rent bikes for miles of cycling.

Ferries will return at 3 and 4:40 p.m.

BoSF has also announced it is seeking beneficiaries for next year's annual International Bear Rendezvous. The four-day event, scheduled for the last weekend in February, is expected to raise several thousands of dollars for good causes. As in the past, two local charities and one national charity will be selected. Past recipients include the AIDS Emergency Fund,

the GodFather Service Fund, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, and other groups.

Interested organizations have until September 16 to apply, but are encouraged to request applications by e-mailing bosf@htg.org or writing to 2215-R Market Street #266, San Francisco CA 94114, by August 31. ▼

For more information about any BoSF event, call the Bearline at (415) 541-5000.

Transgender self-defense class planned for Sunday

by Cynthia Laird

A four-hour self-defense course for transgender men and women will be held this Sunday, August 18, sponsored by Community United Against Violence (CUAV).

Organizers said that participants will learn vital self-defense techniques.

The course will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. at 973 Market Street (between 5th and 6th streets), on the seventh floor. There is a \$5 fee for the session, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. ▼

To register or for more information, call Nhu at (415) 777-5500.

Coming unraveled

Virgin Queen contestant Putanesca Jones wows the audience and the judges Aug. 11 at the Trocadero with her winning talent number: unraveling from a straight jacket while lip-synching the classic "Goin' Out of My Head." The demure Miss Jones was the judges' favorite and helped raise over \$1,300 for the Compassionate Information Alliance.



Endup dispute ends up in suicide

by Mike Salinas

A former owner of San Francisco's Endup bar fatally shot himself in the head last Saturday, August 10, after holding a SWAT team at bay for more than nine hours, Millbrae authorities say.

Police had been seeking 51-year-old Douglass Whitmore since July, when he allegedly shot Carl Hanken after a long and bitter dispute over the estate of Hanken's late brother.

According to police, Whitmore refused to surrender to some 50

officers who surrounded his camper in Millbrae Friday night. Shortly before 5 a.m. Saturday morning they fired tear gas into the camper, forcing a friend of Whitmore's to surrender from inside, but Whitmore remained behind. Approximately an hour later police fired a second round of tear gas, and then reported hearing the sound of a shot from inside the vehicle.

Authorities waited for more than a half hour before venturing into the camper, where they say they found Whitmore dead with a gunshot wound to the head.

Whitmore had been sought on a \$500,000 warrant for allegedly shooting Hanken in the back and arm after forcing his way into his victim's home in a rage. Whitmore had been the heir and executor of the estate, including the popular South of Market bar, after Helmut Hanken died in a 1993 shooting mishap. Carl Hanken sued, alleging mismanagement, and a series of court battles throughout 1995 stripped Whitmore of control.

At the time of the shooting, Carl Hanken had a restraining order against Whitmore. ▼

SF bigwigs plan fundraiser for Long Beach Lesbian Assembly candidate

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco Democratic leaders, including gay politicians, will host a fundraiser Tuesday, August 20 for openly lesbian candidate Gerrie Schipske, who is running for the 54th Assembly District in Long Beach in a heated campaign against incumbent Republican Steve Kuykendall.

San Francisco Supervisors Tom Ammiano, Susan Leal, and Leslie Katz are joining with Mayor Willie Brown, Assemblywoman Carole Migden, community college board members Andrea Shorter and Lawrence Wong, and San Jose politician Ken Yeager, plus several other gay and lesbian leaders and organizations, in hosting the reception.

Organizers said that Schipske is waging a powerful campaign to unseat Kuykendall, who won the seat in 1994 by a margin of less than 600 votes. Political observers have said the district is a "toss-up," and could determine whether Republican Curt Pringle remains in control of the Assembly.

Kuykendall's successful 1994 Assembly campaign was largely financed by a massive last-minute \$125,000 contribution from tobacco giant Philip Morris, Inc. Schipske's supporters say she has the background and credentials to "hammer the tobacco issue home to victory."

Schipske is a registered nurse, educator, and past president of the Long Beach Community College Board. She is running as an open lesbian in a city with one of

the largest gay and lesbian communities in the state.

Tuesday's reception will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union, located

at 4 Berry Street in San Francisco. Tickets are \$50 per person. ▼

For more information, call (213) 463-8181.

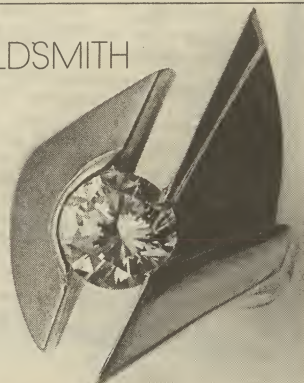
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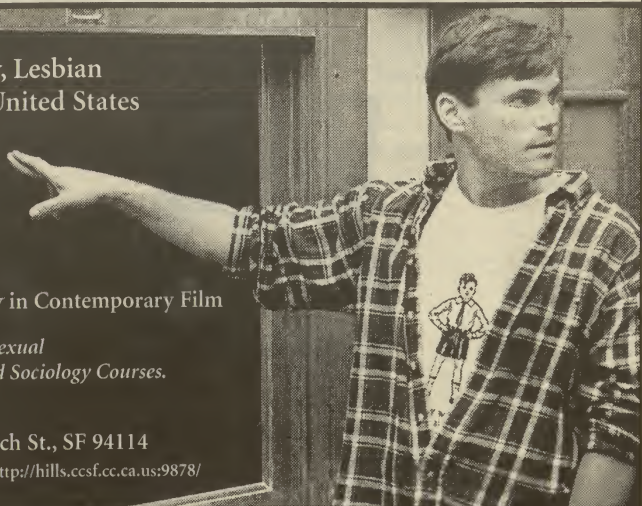
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Openly lesbian state Senator Dale McCormick of Maine (left) chats with SF Director of Public Health Sandra Hernandez at the Aug. 13 Health Summit at the Herbst Theatre. Sen. McCormick spoke on "Legislative/Regulatory Review" and gave a legislator's perspective on the importance of affordable health care.

Napa parties for good causes on Saturday

by Cynthia Laird

Two different fundraising events will be held to benefit two AIDS organizations in the Napa area this Saturday, August 17.

Francis and Ellen Coppola's historic Niebaum-Coppola Winery in Rutherford hosts "Hands Across the Valley," a food and wine extravaganza that will feature a celebrity pizza cook-off, live

music and dancing, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$100 per person. A sell-out is expected for the 6-10 p.m. event, and proceeds will go to about a dozen Napa Valley Safety-Net Food Programs, including the Napa Valley AIDS Project and the HIV Network.

Also that Saturday night, Grammy-nominated contemporary jazz artist Craig Chaquico will perform in concert at the Domaine Chandon Winery in Yountville, north of Napa. Pic-

nicking starts at 6 p.m., and the concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$24 per person, and proceeds will benefit the Napa Valley AIDS Project and the HIV Network. ▼

For information or tickets for "Hands Across the Valley," call (707) 259-2979. For information or tickets for the Craig Chaquico concert, call (707) 944-2280.

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**Sonoma County hospice
benefit on Friday**

by Cynthia Laird

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Petaluma (GALOP), In Motion (gays and lesbians working for the community), and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) will hold their second annual Talent/Variety Show in Petaluma this Friday, August 16.

Proceeds from the event will

go to Hospice of Petaluma, which provides care and grief services to individuals and families facing life-threatening illness in south Sonoma County.

The variety show will start at 8 p.m. at the Lucchessi Community Center in Petaluma. Tickets are \$10 per person. ▼

For tickets or more information call (707) 778-6729.

**AIDS conference highlights
to be presented at
San Jose town meeting**

by Cynthia Laird

People in the South Bay can attend a town meeting on Wednesday, August 21 in San Jose to hear highlights of the XI International Conference on AIDS that was held last month in Vancouver, as well as learn about local HIV/AIDS services and resources.

Dr. Stanley C. Deresinski, medical director of Santa Clara Valley AIDS Health Services and a clinical professor of medicine at Stanford University, will speak about the recent International Conference on AIDS. Deresinski is also the founder of the AIDS Community Research Consortium (ACRC).

Representatives of several South Bay AIDS service organiza-

tions will also give a panel presentation. Among the agencies expected to take part in the discussion are the ACRC, AIDS Health Services/PACE Clinic of Santa Clara County, ARIS of Santa Clara County, the Centre for Living with Dying, Economic and Social Opportunities, San Jose AIDS ETC's Health Education and Training Center, the Santa Clara County HIV/AIDS Health Services Planning Council, Necessities and More, Stanford ACTG, and the Visiting Nurse Association's AIDS Project.

The town meeting will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at United Way of Santa Clara County, located at 1922 The Alameda in San Jose. ▼

Call (408) 885-7700 to reserve a space.

PWA, lover face relocation from non-rent controlled SF building

by Dennis Conkin

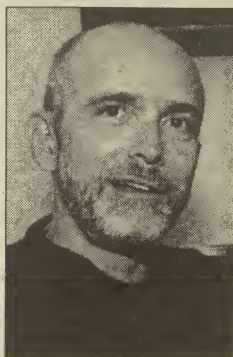
Two San Francisco gay men, one of them living with AIDS, have been forced to leave their home and move out of town after their landlord raised their rent more than 49 percent in less than three years – to nearly \$1,500 a month.

The astronomical rent increase of \$472 a month is possible because the couple lives at the St. Frances Place Apartment com-

plex, located at Third and Folsom streets, which was exempted from rent control when it was erected in 1979.

D. Lowell Sullivan and Stanley R. Wickham chose the complex as their permanent residence in February 1994, when the rent was \$955. Subsequent increases have brought it to \$1,135 – and another \$292 rise is effective September 1. Unable to meet the increases, Sullivan and Wickham will relocate across the Bay, and the unit will be converted from long-term residential housing to short-term – and higher-priced – “executive suite” apartment rentals.

“We found another place to live in Berkeley, and I’m preparing myself to move out by the first of the month,” said Sullivan, who has had AIDS for five years. He told the *Bay Area Reporter* the trauma of the forced relocation is deep, and that as the shock of the major



D. Lowell Sullivan.

life disruption wears off, he mostly feels rage.

“It makes me mad. I get angry about it,” he said.

And, Wickham pointed out, “This will mean that Lowell’s entire HIV support system – from his doctor down – will have to be changed and rebuilt, after five years of time-consuming, energy-draining work to put it in place; work there is neither time nor energy to re-create in a new county or city.”

According to Wickham, the couple’s home can now be rented by a commercial tenant, perhaps a corporation wanting a place to house visiting executives.

To top matters off, the couple says that they want – but don’t really expect – their rental deposit back, because they know of no former tenant who had such a deposit returned.

Pat Soma, a certified property manager who manages the St. Francis Place site, did not return the *B.A.R.’s* inquiries to Lincoln Properties. ▼

Police Commission clears New Year’s Eve raid cops

by Dennis Conkin

The San Francisco Police Commission has dropped misconduct complaints against SFPD Captain Michael Yalon and Lieutenant Michael Erlich in connection with the police raid of a 1994 South of Market New Year’s Eve fundraiser.

The cases against the two officers were dropped following a Police Commission ruling on a motion to dismiss brought by the officers’ attorneys.

Six San Francisco officers were charged in the incident, in which police closed a private fundraiser for Visual AIDS and arrested people attending the benefit. Complainants said police and California State Alcohol and Beverage Control officers beat and arrested them without cause, and made sexist and anti-gay comments during the action.

The dismissal clears Erlich of any charges related to the raid.

Yalon will receive only a verbal admonishment by the chief of police for failing to post Southern Station with notices that people arrested on drinking-related charges have the right to demand a breath test.

The staff attorney for the Office of Citizen Complaints, which is conducting its own investigation into the matter, expressed disappointment at the commission’s decision but said the charges dismissed were not critical to the OCC case – and predicted that complainants would prevail.

“We’ve got a lot of very strong cases – and quite frankly the major focus is on officers who did not have probable cause to arrest people and used unnecessary force when carrying out arrests,” said Diane Chin of the OCC.

Nanci Clarence, an attorney with Steel Clarence and Buckley who represented many complainants, said, “I think the fact that these cases have been dismissed is cause for alarm. There is every indication that the misconduct that marred this raid was orchestrated from the top down.”

“The more senior officers seem to be walking away with a slap on the wrist,” she said. ▼



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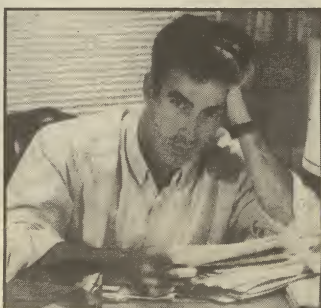
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At a loss

The phrase "awkward good-bye" seems almost redundant, since so few good-byes are any other kind. This week brought another painful farewell with the death last Sunday of columnist Michael Botkin.

Michael's weekly "HIV Watch" and "Queer Watch" columns ran in the Bay Area Reporter for more than six years, entertaining, educating, infuriating, and illuminating the world around himself—and us—twelve hundred words at a time. Like most B.A.R. columnists, he was rarely at the office except when he dashed in to drop off his columns. Because the copy was immaculate, and immaculately punctual, there was less than the ordinary need for us to call to nag and cajole; so months would sometimes go by when we wouldn't exchange more than a few words with him.

But during those months we, like so many others in our community, knew Michael intimately through his writing. Week after week, we were among the tens of thousands of readers who shared his life, which he saw with unusually sharp clarity and reported with an unusually sharp pen.

His columns were witty, insolent, brave, heartfelt, and always honest.

And now there won't be any more of them, and we wish we'd called him more, even when we didn't have to.

The tragedy of losing Michael, who clearly cared what he was more than how he was described, was amplified by the hypocritical political chicanery that was to unfold in San Diego this week. It isn't only that we believe Michael would have loved describing the Republican convention—as he'd have loathed every second of its mendacious insincerity—but also because America clearly needs more uppity faggots like him sounding off, to counter the white bread uniformity that's been promoted in San Diego.

One image we're sure he would have liked was the waterfront launch of the Dole-Kemp team on Sunday, where the cheap and nasty bridesmaid-blue taffeta backdrop (well, what talented designer would work for those guys?) failed to reveal the mock-up of the White House behind the candidates as planned. Instead of dramatically

OPEN FORUM

falling away, the batons of fabric slipped and schlepped to the ground just as pinwheel fireworks went off in all directions: it looked much more like a minor electrical disaster than a planned pyrotechnic display.

The fake White House, meanwhile, looked like a mobile home with a really grandiose entrance; Dole, chanting "on to victory," looked like Christopher Lee in *Candidate of Wax*; and we kept thinking about *The Wizard of Oz*.

"Pay no attention to that trailer behind the curtain," said a voice in our head.

Maybe it was Michael's.

As unintentionally hilarious as most Republican conventions are, there is a lot of danger there too. Many of the country's better-paid strategists are now hard at work trying to convince people that Dole is better than Clinton and Kemp is better than Dole, that tax cuts are better than economic stability, and that guns are much much better than butter.

Most of all, of course, the consultants and marketers are there to prove that what is plainly obvious isn't there at all. How else could one explain the party's sudden focus on people of color in its video clips, when only 101 of the more than 1,900 delegates



Editorial



Michael C. Botkin (left) with partner Steve Finlay on Bernal Hill last year.

there in the flesh are Hispanic or African-American? (The figures for gay people, like Asian-Americans, were impossible to ascertain by presstime.)

It's ironic that the Republicans can appreciate the value of diversity as a selling tool, but seem incapable of grasping its importance as a social contract. If they truly believed what they preached during the first days of the convention, they could even hoist their dolorous candidate back onto the playing field. But then, if they truly believed it, they wouldn't have picked the mean old man in the first place. ▼



Seven litmus tests

by Ezekiel J. Krahlin

So, you have straight friends—even family members, perhaps—who are so very understanding and accepting of your homosexuality. Or are they, really? Take a second look and see how they stand up to these seven litmus tests:

1) Of course, if they accept your homosexuality, they are most likely "liberals." And, being the good liberals they are, they proudly wear T-shirts and decals proclaiming their support of black people's rights, women's rights, ecological causes, anti-nuclear slogans, et cetera. But where are their T-shirts that say something like "Another hetero for gay rights?" If your straight friends do not display pro-gay icons on a regular basis—as they do for other causes—then they are not truly supportive of your sexual civil rights. Just as in the past, many white folks did not vocalize support for black people from fear of being called "nigger lovers," many liberals are afraid of being labeled "faggot" if they display support for gay rights. (Their loss, and your holocaust.)

2) Your "progressive" hetero friends love to chew the fat over political issues (see above), yet they never seem to come around to discussing the gay dilemma. Unless, of course, you yourself interject that topic, with resulting token responses by your "supportive" chums. But if you're silent, or not there, homosexuality is never a part of their progressive agenda.

3) If your "loving" family members say

they support you, how far will they go in defending you before a bigoted relative? Or do they avoid the topic of homosexuality altogether, in order to never be in a position to defend you?

4) If you lost a lover from AIDS or other tragedy: how many family members rush to your side in loving concern, to ease you through your passage of grief, as they clearly would for their heterosexual kin? Or do they give you a cursory nod of sympathy, then go on their own selfish way? (Implying, of course, that no one can really take a homosexual relationship seriously—it is, at best, a joke, and certainly something one can get over in a few weeks or less.)

5) Has any close relative (such as a brother, sister, or parent) ever voluntarily approached you to ask your opinions of what it's like to be gay, and how you cope with an intolerant society? Does any relative take the kindness to recognize your humanity during Lesbian/Gay Pride Week? (Or do they all pretend they don't even know of its existence, even when you remind them of the upcoming event each year?)

6) Are your "understanding" hetero buddies often rationalizing society's homophobia with statements like, "Well, heterosexuality is so deeply ingrained in our culture, it will take some time yet for society to come around"—although they would never dream of saying the same thing for other issues of oppression, such as black people's

rights, child abuse, job discrimination towards females, etc. (Yet those negative aspects are just as ingrained in our society, as is hatred towards homosexuals.)

7) Do your relatives go all gaga over conventional "het" weddings within the family, and pretend to never comprehend why you might feel a little less eager to celebrate these breeder unions than they are?

Many of us live in delusion as to the assumed "stalwart support" from our heterosexual kith and kin. So I hope the examples above will wake up some of our sisters and brothers. I must also point out that if you do have family members and straight friends who pass these litmus tests, then you are a lucky soul, indeed.

I am a Christian who believes that Jesus is homosexual, and whose lover is, of course, God. And it is also my belief that Jesus had the homosexuality/family issue in mind, when He said (Matthew 10:35-36):

"For I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's foes will be those of his own household."

President Clinton's signing of the so-called "Defense Of Marriage Act" is clearly this prophecy on the way to fulfilling itself. Best prepare for the revolution about to come, and beware of family and most of your hetero buddies—for they may kill you with "friendly fire." ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

CBC surveillance

I believe Bank of America denied any knowledge of surveillance of the CBC two issues back in the B.A.R. The events of Sunday morning [Aug. 4] should prove otherwise. In order for the state to do surveillance from that location, BofA either gave its permission or was served a warrant by the state. BofA blatantly lied and needs to be held accountable. It is time for the gay community to show BofA that we won't tolerate their lying!

BofA's Chief Executive Officer is Dave Coulter. His office number is (415) 622-3456. His address is 555 California Street, 40th floor, SF, CA 94104.

Jonathan La Vine
San Francisco

Pink triangles at Dachau

Recently I went to the infamous former Nazi Concentration Camp at Dachau near Munich. The site is now operated as a memorial and museum. Some of the buildings have been rebuilt as originally constructed. One can wander the site at will, and conducted tours by memorial site employees are also offered.

My lover, daughter and I took the conducted tour, which was quite comprehensive, well conducted, and admirably objective. Dachau was primarily a labor camp for political prisoners and not an extermination camp, although it is documented that nearly 40,000 people died while imprisoned there. This was the first camp set up by the Nazis after Hitler's victory in gaining power. It was purported to be a rehabilitation camp where a person was to be "cured" of their offensive or dissenting behavior.

The guide gave extensive explanations on the formation of the camp, its operation, and details of the types of prisoners kept there. He described the markings, or patches, issued to the prisoners which were to be continually worn as identification of their related offense. Even though the guide supposedly reviewed each group, including Jehovah's Witnesses, thieves, etc., there was no mention of Gays. One of the few references we had found was a display board within the Museum which did include the pink triangle given to homosexual prisoners.

My lover inquired of the guide if Nazi-designated degenerates were kept at the camp, and the lengthy response entailed the imprisonment of many Catholic priests. We finally asked if there was any evidence that pink triangle prisoners were kept at Dachau. The guide's response was that there were several hundred verified pink triangle prisoners. He further commented that they were the most despised of the groups, especially since some of the SS Guards knew they themselves belonged to this group. A bordello was set up at the camp where the pink triangle prisoners were forced, supposedly encouraged, to have sex with women in order to cure themselves. We presumed that most, if not all, never left the camp alive.

To our astonishment, and even after the explanation, another member of our tour, an American man, asked who were the pink triangle prisoners. It was the first time that our guide said the word homosexual.

All of this indicates that even though the percentage of pink triangle prisoners was not large in comparison to the total numbers imprisoned, they can be easily overlooked and disregarded. One prisoner of any group should be significant enough to remember and reflect upon. It further emphasizes to me that we must always remind people of our history. As noted above, some Americans also remain uneducated on the symbolism behind the pink triangle and why it is so important to us. Let us not let these facts be neglected and possibly forgotten.

Tom Brutting
San Francisco

Locked out

With the continued huge losses due to the epidemic known as AIDS, life can be unbearable – even more so for some when church doors are locked and people are unable to enter and deal with their grief with their God.

My own experience has been that the doors of Most Holy Redeemer are not open during any time other than Mass or events. I am not alone in feeling that they should be kept open, with hours during day and evening. Afraid of vandalism or street people coming in? Why not have volunteers to attend while the doors are open?

In December, January and June I made attempts to enter and pray. I had to make do at the altar beside the statue of Mary outside. Another time the gates to this were locked.

With Coming Home Hospice right across the street, shouldn't someone at Most Holy Redeemer get the hint that people shouldn't be locked out?

Ron Sapp
Dover, Delaware

Duke it out

Re your recent review of my book "The Girls Next Door: Into the Heart of Lesbian America" (which, to briefly sum up your reviewer's main points, is the worst book in the whole wide world, and should never have been written; plus my co-author and I are the worst lesbians in the whole wide world, and should never have been born):

I'm reluctant to write this note because, as a professional journalist, I hate to make an inexperienced amateur writer look like a fool, especially when she's done such an excellent job of that herself. Additionally, as a committed civil libertarian, I wouldn't dream of trying to censor anyone on any side of any argument; I believe every asshole has a right to express her opinion, however wrong.

However, your reviewer also got my co-author's last name wrong – and spelling's pretty basic Journalism 101, folks. So I'd appreciate a correction.

It's Lindsey "Van Gelder," not "Gelder." Meaning – if your reviewer must join our two last names (the idea of collaborating on a book is really that perverted, huh?) – it'd be "Van Gelder Brandt," not "Gelder Brandt." I realize from other inaccuracies in your reviewer's review re our alleged lesbian-hating, lesbian-bashing, etc., that she didn't actually bother to read our book. But Lindsey's last name is something she could've gotten right if she'd even read our book *jack-et*.

Also (though just a request, not a correction): I frankly don't understand why your headline called us "Lady," as in "the Lady Gelder Brandt," unless your point is that anyone – except, it goes without saying, your deservingly reviewer – who lands a major-publisher book contract to write about lesbians has got to be a stuck-up flutesnoot. But if you do insist upon using a pseudo-honoric in front of our hyphenated pseudo-name, I personally much prefer "The Duke of Earl," or, depending on my mood that day, "The Duchess of Earl." Thanks loads.

Pamela Robin Brandt
Miami Beach, FL

Mean-spirited act

Yet another insensitive remark by a so-called Christian compels a response to baseball player Mark Dewey's actions and remarks during the SF Giants' "Until There's a Cure" ceremony.

By this mean-spirited and unnecessary act at this very poignant ceremony for raising money and public consciousness in the fight against AIDS, Mark Dewey exhibited conduct unbecoming to a person of Christian beliefs.

Ironically, it was those persons initially afflicted with AIDS, the "homosexuals," who have led the world fight toward prevention and cure of this disease through their untiring, non-judgmental political activism, educational programs aimed at all sectors of society, regardless of religious belief or sexual orientation. They have contributed money to medical research as well as supporting not only those with HIV, but their caregivers and organizations who believe in compassion, understanding and love for all people. Without the unselfish caring and cooperation of "homosexuals" throughout the world, this disease could never have been studied in such an efficient manner, facilitating and expediting research by some of the world's best medical minds. In one decade, science has gone from no hope to feelings of hope and promising new treatments.

Many people in this struggle have made a difference in favor of life while detractors, such as Mark Dewey, and other "fundamentalists," hiding under the umbrella of Christianity, just don't seem to get it. Let's not confuse a disease with sexual orientation. We are all human beings in this struggle. Maybe we should all ask ourselves, "Just what is God's will, and why all this blind hatred and mean-spiritedness toward a group of people whose only real 'sin' is to have emotions involving love and a fight for life?"

Mark Dewey's actions are not unlike those of Richard Allen Davis, who turned to the cameras and "flipped the finger" to the family of Polly Klaas – family, friends and supporters who have courageously stood up and fought for life just as the gay community did. Mark Dewey simply gave a symbolic "finger" to all people with HIV and AIDS. Is this an example of a good Christian or role model?

The debate evolving from Mark Dewey's actions is good. It serves as a reminder of one man's blind hatred and homophobia carefully placed under the Christian umbrella. While Dewey certainly has a right to his personal belief, the hurt inflicted by his actions was unnecessary and unwarranted from a Christian point of view.

Let's not forget the other players and SF Giants ownership, and Mayor Willie Brown who stood in support for this worthy cause benefiting everyone.

Chester C. Green, Jr.
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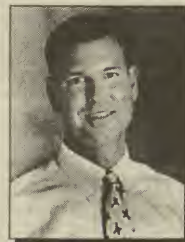
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Sunday, September 22
7:30 pm Kol Nidre Service
Monday, September 23
9:30 am Morning Service
10:00 am Pre-School Children's Service
10:45 am School-Age Children's Service
3:30 pm Afternoon Service
4:30 pm Yom Kippur Names Service
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Celestial coup

Zowie! Erin Blackwell, what a coup! Your Fina Torres/Mécaniques Célestes pieces were right on the mark. "Celestial Clockwork" is an unexpected and quite marvelous film. It also has a pretty snazzy stereo soundtrack. Toward the end there was this jazzy, loud trombone blasting away (it sounded like it came out from under my seat!).

What a sunny, optimistic, upbeat film. Works like this help one keep sane in a world that allows Bill Clinton to discontinue the welfare system for the poor (not to mention denying queers the right to marry) and still claim he's a Democrat. Your reporting came at the right time - thanks for taking the trouble.

Rex Hardwick
San Francisco

Home of the wimps

What has happened to the Land of the Free? In response to the bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City, Americans now prohibit parking on three sides of the federal building in San Francisco. In response to the downing of TWA Flight 800, we line up like sheep to have our baggage examined by million-dollar x-ray machines. In response to the pipe bomb at the Olympics, we ask for even more FBI wiretaps.

Where has the indomitable American spirit gone? Why is it that only men and women who put on uniforms are supposed to die for our much-vaunted freedoms? Unlike our Western European allies who gave their lives to defeat Hitler, Americans are not willing to risk their lives for the rights that our forebears secured for us at great personal sacrifice. Instead of thumbing our collective nose at today's terrorists (while investigating, prosecuting, convicting, and punishing them), we succumb to their cowardly attacks by restricting our own freedoms. We do so in exchange for illusory security measures while moving inexorably towards a form of self-imposed slavery. In short, we are letting a few terrorists win without putting up a fight.

As a result, Americans will continue to get what we deserve: metal detectors in every building and four more years of Wimpy Willy in the White House, the leader of the Home of the Wimps.

Richard Gayer
San Francisco

Momentous

Lately, I've been seeing all of these pink billboards around town: the ones telling us queer boys to "get ready for THE MOMENT." At the risk of sounding stupid, what exactly is THE MOMENT?

First I thought THE MOMENT was a new dance club, but I haven't seen it in the club listings. Then I thought maybe THE MOMENT is about sex and HIV... Now I'm seeing cute boys in MOMENT T-shirts with the pink f(l)ag guy on the front. If you have the inside scoop, share.

David Mills
San Francisco

[Glad you asked. See page 15.]

Little M(asterpiece)

[The following letter was sent to arts writer Daniel Harris:]

I have to write and thank you for your glowing article about one of my favorite books, *Little Me*. It is truly a masterpiece, as you said, and I fail to understand why it does not have more of a following. Undoubtedly *Auntie Mame* stole all the applause (it did make a wonderful movie).

I don't know how many times I have read *Little Me*, including reading it aloud to friends in installments. I wish you had mentioned some of the highlights of the book, like Belle's 4-hour version of *The Scarlet Letter* or Carstairs Bagley floating about in a tea-dress, or Bea Lillie's decline to Belle's invitation to tea, saying she was "allergic to tarts." I could go on and on, and you probably have your favorites. Belle's innocence as she sings her praises, and relates her successes is truly beguiling and so reminiscent of people we have all known somewhere along the line.

It pains me that the book is out of print, and I have been collecting used copies of it for years now, partly to replace loaned-out copies that don't get returned because the person has fallen in love with Belle Poitrine. As you probably know, all of Patrick Dennis' books are out of print, except the *Mame* books, including another of my favorites, *Genius*, which is also high camp. Are you familiar with it? I have a half dozen other Dennis books and am always on the look-out for more.

Again, thank you for resurrecting Belle (and Patrick). Maybe we can hope that Bette Midler or someone will make the movie.

Bob Shultz
San Francisco

Five bucks, four stars, three cheers!

Last night, August 5, I went to the Embassy Lounge at Polk and Turk for the Monday Night Dinner.

I was very impressed. The food was excellent: first there was a green salad and then the entree. We had spicy meat ball sauce over egg noodles, which was very very good, but what impressed me the most was the presentation. It was better than most four star restaurants.

The waitress was alert, friendly, and very helpful. The atmosphere was superb. There was a piano player playing well selected tunes.

We were very impressed, and what is surprising is that it only cost \$5 per person and all the money raised went to charity.

I salute you, Embassy Lounge.

Turner Reed
San Francisco

Off the ramps

The MAAC [MUNI Accessibility Advisory Committee] is a volunteer advisory board of seniors and disabled riders of MUNI. The MAAC is concerned about dangerous practices on the access ramps for MUNI Streetcar platforms. Specifically our concerns are the skaters, skateboarders and others who misuse the disabled ramps on the Market Street F-Line. Skaters have been seen skating up the ramps, turning 90 degrees, and jumping off the edge into the traffic lanes.

This presents a hazard not only to the skaters, but to the public in general and to the disabled who need these ramps. Skaters, who do not, jump off the edge, turn around, and come back down at speeds which they cannot, or do not control. They run into passengers who are waiting for MUNI and seem to have no regard for the disabled whom they run into.

We would appreciate it if those who engage in this practice stop before someone is seriously, if not fatally, injured.

Wayne Sherman
Secretary, MAAC
San Francisco

Beth receives a wake-up call

Sometimes I shudder at the lack of "sophistication" present in the printed comments of those who provide political commentary on behalf of our communities. Beth Elliott's recent *B.A.R.* column regarding affirmative action is a perfect case in point. I don't want to be too "hyperbolic," so let me just say that as an African-American gay man who has greatly benefited from the results of affirmative action, I am more than mildly concerned about the present conservative agenda to roll back affirmative action and the rights of immigrants and poor people in this country.

Hello! Wake up, Beth! The simple fact is that we need affirmative action now more than ever in this country to ensure that people of color and women are afforded the basic opportunities of education and employment. Every empirical study that I have seen discussing diversity in employment and education seems to point to the continued presence of discrimination and the lack of equal opportunity. Yes, it is a bittersweet experience to need the assistance of affirmative action to get a job or education for which you are well-qualified. I am not quite 40 years old, but I can give ample testimony to the continuing nature of discrimination against women and people of color even in the g/l/b/t communities. The continuation of the need for affirmative action is much more a statement about society at large than it is about the qualifications of those it benefits.

I do not know what to make of the specious argument that in the "corporate world... aggressive anti-discrimination efforts and equal benefits for same-sex partners are years... ahead of the law." This may be true on Deep Space Nine, that wonderful space-station run by an oh-so attractive African American male, but back here on planet earth this is simply not the case. Word, Beth—there are more than a few of us out here who believe that there is a well-organized attempt on the part of conservatives to roll back the clock. You may believe that the gains made by California's politically powerful g/l/b/t communities will remain unchallenged while all others fall around us, but there are some of your loyal readers who find this sentiment to be a load of - well, hyperbole. Do yourself a favor, get educated. You could find no better teacher than Ms. Goldstein at the Human Rights Commission.

Randy Miller
San Francisco

[Beth Elliott responds: Neither this letter nor Cynthia Goldstein's, last week, mentioned my saying the playing field wasn't yet level, or that improved pre-college education means greater opportunity. I agree that discrimination exists, and that the private sector (which Prop. 209 doesn't touch) has far to go. Nonetheless, many public sector jobs are Civil Service and therefore merit-based, and equal employment laws exist to be enforced. Would 209 legalize discrimination? No. Will claiming it does defeat it? This might backfire - the point of my commentary, which neither writer addressed.]

POLITICS

Number two

by Wayne Friday

After Bob Dole gives his no doubt inspiring acceptance speech tonight (Thursday, August 15) and the GOP delegates return home to await the Democratic coronation in a few days of President Clinton and Vice President Gore in Chicago, the focus will shift to the Great Debates of the '96 campaign, with the main question being who will be debating whom. Dole's picking **Jack Kemp**, the GOP's best-known roving mouthpiece, as his running mate, was a surprise, and many feel the real debate in this presidential year should be between Bob and Jack.

The two men despise each other, and everyone knows it. Like his "good friend" **William Bennett**, Kemp, since leaving the **George Bush** administration four years ago where he was secretary of HUD, has made himself available for television talk shows galore and racked up sizable speaking fees for the past four years, but not much else. Reporters covering the GOP confab in San Diego this week were even disagreeing about where Kemp is registered to vote — in Buffalo, where he reportedly keeps a home; Washington, where he now reportedly lives; or Palm Springs? By press time, the riddle may be solved.

Back to the debates! A half-dozen examples where the GOP's newest Odd Couple disagree:

- Legal immigration — Bob Dole openly backs cuts; Kemp has been loudly critical of efforts to curb it, particularly in California;

- Gun control — Mr. Kemp favors a ban on combat-style weapons; Dole has strongly opposed it in Congress;

- Tax increases — Back in 1985, Senator Dole proposed a politically risky \$300 billion package of spending cuts to ease the national deficit, and persuaded the **Ronald Reagan** administration to go along. Kemp and other leading Republicans opposed it; Reagan eventually withdrew his support and the bill never became law;

- The flat tax — once a hardened opponent, Dole now cautiously endorses the flat-tax idea, but has "serious reservations" about ending certain deductions; Kemp is a leading advocate of a flat tax;

- Social security — During the 1988 GOP primaries, Kemp warned that Bob Dole was a "threat" to Social Security, saying that he would cut benefits;

- Affirmative action — Dole opposes any type of affirmative action and earlier this year backed legislation that would end federal preferences based on race or sex; Jack Kemp strongly supports affirmative action and thinks race is a legitimate factor in equal employment and economic matters.

Whoever said "politics makes strange bedfellows" could have had this unholy union in mind. The Dole-Kemp ticket is little more than a "marriage of convenience," the football equivalent (to borrow an analogy Kemp might use) of a Hail Mary pass, a desperate act by Dole to plug the hole in his campaign's leaky dike.

To be sure, the Republicans



Before bitter: Bob Dole as a high school senior in Russell, Kansas, in 1941.

will get a temporary bump in the polls after this week's show in San Diego, but with Bill Clinton still leading Bob Dole by as much as 20 percentage points in some polls and double-digit numbers in all the polls, it will take more than an aging ex-football star to jump-start this campaign.

Indeed, this week in San Diego, long-time political strategist **Lyn Nofziger**, who has known Kemp for 30 years and has been a Republican heavyweight in every national campaign since 1960, smiled upon hearing that Kemp had been chosen as Dole's veep, commenting, "These guys don't like each other and haven't for a long, long time. To even make this thing work, Jack has to subordinate himself to Dole. He understands he's not number one, but he is going to have to remind himself continually of that."

Great Debates of '96? Well, maybe. But the best of the bunch should be between Bob Dole and the man he chose as his sparring partner ... er ... running mate.

Convention bits and pieces

The Log Cabin Club held its convention in San Diego last weekend and decided, according to a spokesperson, to delay a decision on whether or not to endorse the Dole-Kemp ticket "until after the convention, so we can see what develops."

Incidentally, Log Cabin members informs me that they have four (count 'em four) "openly gay" delegates at the GOP confab and two alternates.

A San Francisco-esque button featuring **Bill Clinton** and **Al Gore** bare-chested and arm-in-arm as a gay couple was reportedly a hot seller in San Diego this week.

One thing is certain: The Dole-Kemp ticket gives little, if any, encouragement to the millions of pro-choice women who will be

voting in November. Look for more GOP women to defect to Bill Clinton, thanks to **Phyllis Schlafly**, the self-proclaimed "queen" of the convention, for killing any mention of tolerance in her party's platform.

San Diego's popular Republican Mayor **Susan Golding** on the Kemp choice: "It clearly energizes Dole's base [but he already had that], but Kemp's strong pro-life position does little to reach out to independents and women voters" that Dole badly needs to beat President Clinton.

Pete Wilson, the former mayor of San Diego and host governor of the GOP Convention, had his speaking invitation yanked when he refused to assure the Dole forces he wouldn't speak about abortion. Likewise, New Jersey Governor **Christine Whitman**, Mass. Governor **William Weld**, and New York Governor **George Pataki**. NYC Mayor **Rudy Giuliani** decided to stay home. This is the "big tent" party that Bob Dole keeps referring to?

Out with the smoke-filled rooms: The GOP Convention this week banned smoking in Convention Hall for the first time. Are the Demo organizers reading this?

President Clinton and family are spending this week watching the GOP goings-on (some of them anyway) on TV from their Montana vacation spot. Meanwhile, the visit of **Al and Tipper Gore** this week to a Cape Cod vacation cottage forced the shutdown of an illegal nude beach nearby.

On the local scene, to those who keep bugging me, yes, I do think openly gay candidate **Victor Marquez** would make a good supervisor. I plan to vote for him.

Municipal Court judge candidate **Kay Tsenin** won an overwhelming endorsement last week from the powerful Chinese American Democratic Club.

The Quote of the Week is from DC political commentator **Mark Shields**: "As a pro football player, Jack Kemp has showered with more black men than Bob Dole has ever shaken hands with." And how was your week? ▼



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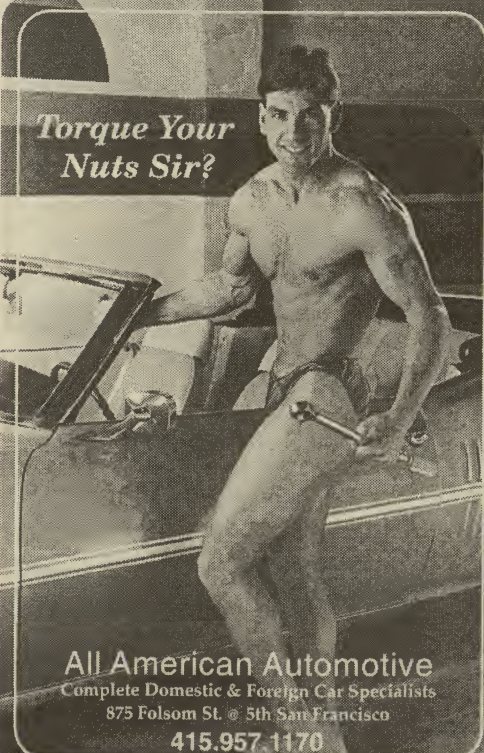


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My magic button

by Beth Elliott

A few weeks ago, two very dear friends gave me a button they'd bought because it made them immediately think of me. I was extremely flattered, because the button read: "Poet, Warrior, Enlightened Being ... and Babe Magnet!" After blushing and thanking them, I said I'd have to work harder at the last part, since I felt somewhat deficient in net results.

My potential dating pool isn't the largest in the world to start with, given my intellect, values, eclectic interests, femme-femme orientation, sexual adventurousness and political nonconformity. In that smaller pool, being (according to my friends) a catch hasn't been enough to move me up from a feast-or-famine dating life.

Fortunately for my general happiness, I've learned two things. First, if something's worth doing, it's worth doing even without a date. Second, being a quality babe and having a dollar will get you on the Muni; lesbians (present company included) are crazy — we can get as high on drama as we can on romance. When you're out there looking for love, what the women you encounter do won't always make sense.

Funny, though — since they gave me that button, I've been getting a lot more attention,

but I'm clue-challenged when it comes to sorting out lesbian courtship group dynamics, and that I can center in my own bliss even when out of sync with the general madness. Or maybe my friends worked some great button magic?

Peculiar balance

Detecting a theme of my getting babe attention after relaxing and going with the flow? That may be partly true. Late last fall, on my meditative hikes, I kept finding myself in a peculiar balance: having a wonderful, happy sense that the things I most like to do had fairly consistently put me in the line of fire for deep inspiration, while also feeling so detached I could have floated off this plane right then and there. In fact, I felt a subtle pressure to do the latter.

This was actually irritating. I felt it dishonored the path of walking in (lesbian) beauty just as it seemed the universe was saying relax and give some props to that madcap Bethie lifestyle.

I'd been feeling a kind of dating life ennui, and even futility. In my last "going with," the emotions had reached a certain point then leveled off; subsequent "potential babes" were flaking right and left. Intellectually, I accept-

tered as an individual and relationships. Of course you'd prefer to be involved with someone. That's why we're lesbians, duh! That helped put things in perspective.

True to form

And then I was off to Shasta, where I really honored that sense of "Hey, this is life, I'm passing through and having adventures on the way." Not long after I got back, I got an invitation to come over for dinner from a friend I'd kind of underestimated — she was in no way granola crunchy,

but had struck me as being more on the "soft, fuzzy" generic lesbian side than she actually turned out to be. We held true to lesbian form: progressing from friendly greeting to talking more about our lives over dinner, to a little making out on the couch to a

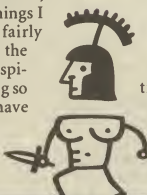
Melissa Etheridge CD, to being

all over each other (you know how that works).

This was my first post-Shasta "date" date, and there was a moment on her couch when I realized just how inwardly and spiritually focused I'd gotten for (and while hiking on) Shasta, how well I'd gotten centered and into flowing along with *mi vida loca* with a sense of bemusement. I was pretty much all over her; my knee was in her crotch and I was straddling her thigh, and we were both cooing and moaning as we kissed passionately (sound familiar?).

Suddenly, I was simultaneously in the moment and observing myself. "That's right," I found myself thinking, "you're a lesbian. This is what you do." Then I found myself thinking, "Wow, this is great! Excellent call, Beth!" It suggested I had indeed climbed to a high altitude in the geography of both California and my psyche, was now settling back into my mundane life and realizing that life was pretty cool.

So now, though I'm not exactly being the belle of the ball, I'm meeting cool women and getting enough affectionate attention (with potential for things to go wherever) for a nice baseline level of contentment. If the girl of my dreams showed up on my doorstep tomorrow, I wouldn't say "I gave at the office" and slam the door. What's nice, though, is the sense of "flow": I'm out there interacting and seeing what tomorrow brings, in that happy lesbian way. ▼



Sapphistication

Myself, I got into a liplock that prompted a decision to take it upstairs so as not to be rude, scored a date for back on the coast, and was greeted with hugs and kisses everywhere I went.

whether it's been on my chest or in a drawer. Yeah, my magic button's been getting a workout. Or maybe this is just a particularly affectionate summer — there was a lot of shared affection, etc. among most everyone in Philadelphia for the International Ms. Leather contest weekend. Myself, I got into a liplock that prompted a decision to take it upstairs to her room so as not to be rude, scored a date for back on the coast, and was greeted with hugs and kisses everywhere I went. Maybe it was the whole process of preparing to commune with Mt. Shasta over summer solstice — accepting that les-

ed being great girlfriend material but too quirky for mass appeal; emotionally, it stung. Since my life was full of good friends and cool adventures, it was obviously time to get over the idea that life's being good depended on whether a primo relationship was part of it.

That I could accept with equanimity a springtime affair's both starting and ending abruptly was a relief — and a sign being philosophical works. Still, all things considered, I'd rather be in (required) love (ooh, bumper sticker philosophy!). To this, a friend said, "Well, duh — of course you value both being cen-

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Bay Area Radical Women to host Women's Rights Day next week

by Cynthia Laird

In celebration of Women's Rights Day, the group Bay Area Radical Women plans to salute a panel of unionists at a San Francisco event next Saturday, August 24.

The panel discussion will be held at the SEIU Local 87 Union Hall, located at 240 Golden Gate Avenue, near the Civic Center BART Station. It will feature women workers addressing job discrimination and anti-affirma-

tive action as a right-wing attack that they feel can only be defeated by a united front of feminists and people of color.

"Radical Women salutes a panel of unionists who honor and yet want to go beyond the hard-won victories of getting the vote," stated member Imogen Fua, one of the organizers for the celebration event.

The panelists will be Kai Douglas, former organizer of Tradeswomen, Inc.; Carol Tarlen of AFSCME Local 3218 at the University of California, San

Francisco; and Nancy Kato of UPTC-CWA 9119 at University of California, Berkeley.

The evening program will be preceded by a southern buffet dinner at 6:30 p.m., with a requested donation of \$8 per person. The program, with a door donation of \$3 to \$5, sliding scale, will begin at 8 p.m. ▼

For information or childcare, call (415) 864-1278 three days prior to the event.

Nominations open for lesbian AIDS leadership award

by Cynthia Laird

The Whitman-Walker Clinic in Washington DC has announced the creation of a national award to honor lesbian leadership in the fight against AIDS. Nominations will be accepted until Sunday, September 1.

The Mary Walker Award will be given to a lesbian whose work in the field of HIV/AIDS has had a remarkable impact on a national level, said a clinic spokesman. The award will be presented at the "Sharing the Fight: Honoring Lesbian Leadership in the AIDS epidemic" fundraising luncheon at the Willard Hotel in the capital on October 12.

Organizers noted that the luncheon, to benefit the clinic's Lesbian Services Program, is being held as part of many AIDS-related events, like the 1996 National AIDS Candlelight March led by Elizabeth Taylor, that will occur in conjunction with the October display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt on the Mall in the nation's capital.

"Since the very beginning of the epidemic, lesbians have made significant contributions in the fight against AIDS," said Jim Graham, executive director of the Whitman-Walker Clinic. "It was

the lesbian community that first stood with gay men demanding that this nation respond to and acknowledge the death of thousands in our community.

"Today, they continue to stand with all who are helping to fight this battle. It is time for us to honor their commitment," Graham added.

The Mary Walker Award bears the name of the Civil War Army physician and Congressional

permanent display at the clinic. Names of those on it will also appear in publications for the Sharing the Fight luncheon.

Women for the honor roll can be a volunteer, caregiver, an advocate, social worker or researcher, or any other lesbian who has contributed in the battle against AIDS. Each honoree will receive a certificate or recognition.

The deadline for the lesbian honor roll is September 10, for

"It was the lesbian community that first stood with gay men demanding the nation respond."

Medal of Honor recipient. Specifically, the award will recognize outstanding contributions by a lesbian in the fight against AIDS in one of four categories: AIDS awareness, advocacy, the provision of care or service, or medical research.

In addition to the award, the Whitman-Walker Clinic is also creating a "Lesbian Honor Roll." For \$25, any lesbian who has made a difference in the fight against HIV/AIDS can be added to the honor roll, which will be on

those wishing to have their names appear in the luncheon event materials. ▼

To nominate lesbians for the Mary Walker Award or the Lesbian Honor Roll write the "Sharing the Fight Committee" c/o Lesbian Services Program, Whitman-Walker Clinic, 1407 S Street, NW, Washington DC 20009. For more information call (202) 939-7875.



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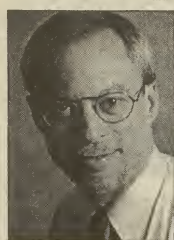
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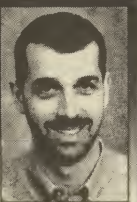
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Is outing in - again?

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The day after Congressman Jim Kolbe's August 2 public announcement that he is gay, local newspapers sang his praises with overwhelmingly supportive editorials and articles. The *Arizona Republic* wrote, "Is a story about Rep. Kolbe's sexual orientation news at all? There can be no debate about his commitment to Arizona and the quality representation he has delivered throughout his tenure in office." On August 2, however, the backlash began to appear.

The *Arizona Republic* upped the ante with a series of editorials that shifted the focus away from Kolbe, and his vote for the so-called Defense of Marriage Act (DoMA), to a full-scale crusade against "outing." An editorial on August 3 stated, "It's hard to understand how gay activists can justify 'outing' gay or lesbian public figures. It is a strategy that can only be condemned." A new wave of public debate on outing was born.

The *News with Brian Williams* took up the debate on MSNBC, the cable television/Internet collaboration between NBC and Microsoft, with guests speaking from two different viewpoints on outing. The Human Rights Campaign's political director Daniel Zingale spoke out encouraging lesbian and gay politicians to come out for themselves, and *OUT* magazine columnist Michelangelo Signorile advocated for reporting a person's sexual orientation if it is relevant to the story.

Signorile maintained, "Public figures are often trying to conceal things that sometimes are relevant to the public, and we as journalists do report those things. [With Kolbe] we had a Congressman who had voted against the gay community." In Signorile's view, Kolbe's orientation was completely relevant to the news story. Zingale, on the other hand, disagreed with outing someone against their will in favor of working closely with gay and lesbian politicians to persuade them to come out of the

closet.

In the past the media has used the outing debate to create a sensationalistic circus. To MSNBC's credit, they chose two articulate and respected members of the gay and lesbian community with differing opinions in order to hash out the fine points of outing in a dignified forum. Not bad for the new kid on the block.

Contact: Mark Harrington, Vice President, MSNBC, 2200 Fletcher Avenue, Fort Lee NJ 07024, telephone: (201) 583-5000, e-mail: the-news@msnbc.com, WWW: <http://www.msnbc.com>.

Atlantic dumps Extra Fancy extra fast

Despite glowing press and a solid following, Atlantic Records gave Extra Fancy (led by openly gay, HIV-positive Brian Grillo) the heave-ho. Atlantic's decision comes just eight weeks after releasing the band's new album *Sinnerman* and on the heels of the formation of the record company's heavily promoted gay marketing division.

Jim Farber, rock critic for the *New York Daily News*, reported that a source close to the group said, "A lot of gay people feel duped by this. You can't court gay people with marketing, then stab those people in the back. Brian was a role model, the kind of person who could change people's minds." Atlantic Records has refused to comment on the move.

Let Atlantic Records know that while the gay marketing division is appreciated, cutting Extra Fancy from their roster without so much as an explanation wins the company no fans and alienates lesbians and gay men.

Contact: Atlantic Records, Peter Gavin, Vice President of Product Development, Gay Markets, Atlantic Records, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York NY 10019, fax: (212) 275-3489.

Utah paper says enough is enough

An editorial in the August 3 *Desert News* of Salt Lake City told the Salt Lake City School Board that they are acting completely irrationally in their zealous pursuit of ways to prevent a gay-straight alliance from forming at district high schools. Last March, despite criticism, the school board banned all extracurricular clubs

rather than allowing a student group for lesbian, gay and bisexual youth and their friends to form. Now, in order to keep gay youth from meeting on school grounds at all, the school board is considering disallowing banned groups from renting school property even after the school day.

The *Desert News* editorial said, "Restricting the use of school buildings would be a mistake. ... If students find a responsible adult supervisor who is willing to pay the rental fee and meet along with the youth, they should be allowed to use school buildings under the same policy that makes the facilities available for a political convention or a church play. To close them, or to eliminate only certain groups that district finds distasteful, would only invite court action and lead to restrictions that would hurt the community."

Let the *Desert News* know that you appreciate their appeal for reason.

Contact: The Desert News, P.O. Box 1257, Salt Lake City, UT 84110, fax: (801) 237-2121, e-mail: letters@desnews.com.

HIV-positive youth in the spotlight

"Living in the Shadow of AIDS," an article that appeared in the August 6 *Houston Chronicle*, tells the story of six HIV-positive youth, portraying them as real people facing the daunting realities of living with AIDS. The message is clear: Some are gay men, some are mothers, some are out on the street, and some have supportive families. But all of the young people featured in this honest and engaging article are struggling with an uncertain future and dealing with the virus one day at a time.

By allowing the young people to tell their own stories, journalist Claudia Feldman illuminates the specific issues of being young and HIV-positive and points out the necessity for young people to have access to information about safer sex, sexuality, and new drugs to combat HIV. The article also provides a list of resources young people in crisis can consult in the Houston area.

Contact: Claudia Feldman, *Houston Chronicle*, 801 Texas Avenue, Houston TX 77002, fax: (713) 220-6575, e-mail: hci@chron.com.



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Judy Garland fan club beware:

Gay youth web magazine unveiled

by Jesse Costello-Good

Have you never been able to understand why Judy Garland is worshipped as a gay icon? If so, *Judy Who?* might be for you.

Judy Who? is a new online magazine for young queers who might be having a hard time fitting into mainstream gay and lesbian culture. It is designed to represent a wide range of gay and lesbian communities – from lesbian tattoo artists to drag queens to transsexuals – but will concentrate mostly on alternative communities. Designers hope that the magazine will let young queers all over the country know that there is diversity within gay and lesbian culture.

A draft of the first issue of *Judy Who?* was unveiled at SFSU Monday, August 12. The first page fea-

tures a young Judy Garland with a buzz cut, the magazine's logo. The magazine's other icons and art are equally colorful and intriguing. Articles range from an opinion piece on male body image and gym queens to a surreal photographic fairy tale. A hilarious piece on Chastity Bono is not to be missed.

The magazine will be posted on the world wide web and will feature a relatively innovative structure. Most web sites are arranged in a tree-like branching format. Explains Christopher Nash, designer of *Judy Who?*, "We are tired of seeing that same old structure." So *Judy Who?* will be much more decentralized and random. A reader will choose one of four different topics (truth, lies, propaganda, and flesh), and the computer will randomly pull up an article or graphic relating to that topic. The site will also have a place people can leave messages for each other and a search index for those who need to find a specific article.

Judy Who? does not have a writing staff, so most articles will be collected from other sources. A notice was sent out for submissions earlier this year. One requirement for submissions is that

they be PG-13. Designers don't want conservative forces who censor *Judy Who?* because of its gay material to be able to blame this on explicit material.

Judy Who? was conceived of in January by Christopher Nash, who then turned it into his final project at SFSU's College of Extended Learning. Inspiration came from *Homocore*, a Boston magazine for queer punks. Work started in June after Nash convinced the faculty to allow the project and persuaded five other students to help out. For now the magazine will reside on the SFSU server, but Nash expects *Judy Who?* to eventually find a home at Planet Out.

The first issue of the magazine is expected to debut at www.judy-who.org in late August. ▼

San Jose gets Woman in the Moon

by Cynthia Laird

After 17 productive and growth-filled years in Cupertino, publisher Sdiane Bogus announced the black-owned, woman-owned book publishing company Woman in the Moon (WIM) has moved to a new location in San Jose August 14.

A ribbon cutting and open house will be held Sunday, August 18.

"We believe that this move will broaden visibility of our services and publications in the local community so that we can better serve our constituent communities: progressive women, African-Americans, educators, persons interested in spiritual growth, and lezgay people," Bogus stated.

At the new site, WIM will offer sales of its publications, manuscript evaluation, book consultations, poetry readings, and art events. Through a subsidiary, Uncommon Hands, WIM will also offer spiritual consultation, Bogus added. ▼

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HIV forum touches on issues facing positives and negatives

by Cynthia Laird

Approximately 100 men, both HIV-positive and HIV-negative, turned out to express their thoughts and experiences of living with the AIDS epidemic at the final "Gentlemen's Agreement" meeting at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco in the Castro.

The forum consisted of three meetings, one for HIV-negative men, one for HIV-positive men—both of which were held last month—and the final session with both groups, held last Monday, August 12. "Gentlemen's Agreement" was presented by the People With AIDS Coalition (PWAC) and Invention, a primary prevention project working with HIV-negative men.

The theme of Monday's forum was "Division or Reunion."

Susan Thompson, site supervisor at the city's Health Center Number One in the Castro, was the moderator for the meeting. Thompson has worked with the AIDS Health Project for ten years.

Bill Hershon, a member of the PWAC board of directors, said he thought the forum, and the dia-

logue it sought to create, was needed in the gay community.

"You don't normally think of the HIV-positive community reaching out," Hershon told the B.A.R. before the meeting began.

Hershon went on to tell the audience that PWAC was an early supporter of Invention when it formed last year, and joined with the group to put on the three community meetings.

"The idea was to synthesize concerns of both communities," he said. "There are, no doubt, areas of contention, but I hope everybody can share their concerns and viewpoints."

"I think mutual respect is important."

Dr. Joseph Brewer, a psychotherapist and director of Invention, pointed out there aren't many meetings like the "Gentlemen's Agreement" forum.

"This is a community event like we don't have too often, with positive and negative men getting together," Brewer said. "We need to work on some differences—or accept them."

Beyond HIV

Project Inform's Ben Collins, who moderated the HIV-positive

forum held last month, said the main issue under discussion was disclosure of a person's HIV status.

"Disclosure kept coming up over and over, and over," he said.

Michael Crosby, who moderated the HIV-negative meeting, said disclosure was talked about by the men who attended that meeting as well.

At the end of the two-hour meeting, participants found similarities between HIV-positive and HIV-negative men, primarily concerning the grief and loss associated with the epidemic.

Since confidentiality was respected at the meeting, most people did not give their names when they spoke.

One man who identified himself as HIV-positive said that he had two very different experiences regarding disclosure. One was very positive, but the other was negative, involving a person who told others about his HIV status, which affected his job and social life.

Another man who is HIV-neg-

ative, and has an HIV-positive partner, said he knows what's going to be safe for him and said he takes responsibility for his body, his life, and his death.

Still another said that being HIV-positive has changed the way he perceives life and death. "When you're HIV-positive a funny thing happens to your sense of time," he said. "Time is very precious."

Several people spoke about the exhaustion they have felt in 15 years of living with the AIDS epidemic in the community.

One HIV-negative man said he didn't get tested until ten years into the epidemic. Since then, he said, "All I can do is the best I can."

"We've all lost, we've all hurt," he added. "It's beyond HIV."

Another topic of discussion at the meeting involved the lack of diversity in the audience, and the age of those in attendance: most in the room were older white men.

"Where are the younger men?" asked one participant. "I wonder why most of us are older." ▼

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Are you ready? The Moment is here

by Jesse Costello-Good

Today (Thursday, August 15) Q Action, the young men's program of the STOP AIDS Project, launches The Moment campaign, an innovative approach to reducing HIV infection in gay and bisexual men. In preparation for the start of the program, eye-catching pink ads reading, "hey queer boys, get ready for the Moment" have been placed all over the city, from billboards to bathrooms. Given the sophistication of this advertising effort there's no doubt young queer men are ready — but what exactly is the Moment?

The Moment refers to the three-second period when a person decides whether to have safe or unsafe sex. The program will examine this moment through five different topics: sex and communication, sexual motivations, relationships, drugs and alcohol, and the future. Each topic will last for six weeks.

The Moment will use Q Action's existing programs to produce discussion on the topics. The campaign will continue with ads introducing each new topic as the program progresses. Cafe Chats, informal meeting groups in coffee shops, will now center on the Moment. Q Action is also changing its FLIQ program, a monthly video screening and discussion event, to focus on the Moment. Hot issues like sexual motivations will generate interest, say designers.

David Boyer, the Moment's creative director, conceived of the project while working with *Might* magazine. An article about safe sex appeared in the magazine, which is for young people, gay and straight. The debate around the article was used to create the program. Q Action then held a pre-test with several young men to define exactly what the Moment is. A summit was held in early May for young people, service providers, and researchers to talk about the Moment and identify issues that need to be addressed.

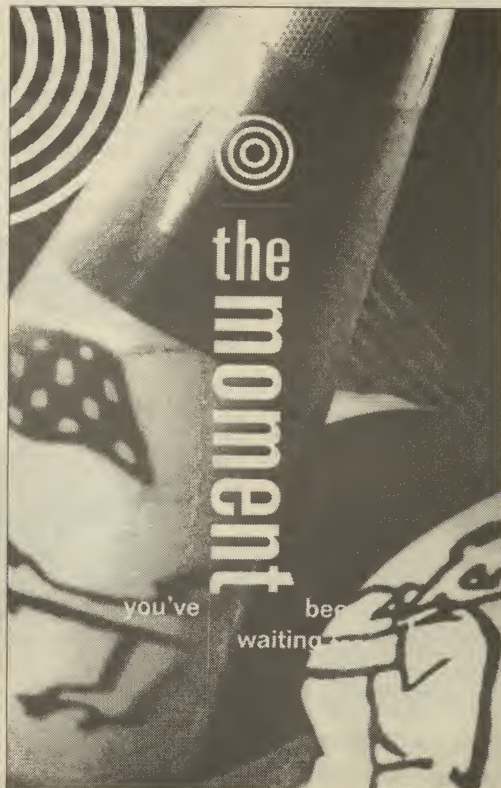
With the start of the Moment, Q Action kicks off a new era in AIDS prevention services, combining commercial mass media techniques and substantive health programs to serve the younger generation. They are a model for how to attract and educate young queer men.

No easy answers

The campaign is designed to ask questions rather than answer them. "We're asking people to think and read a lot," says Boyer. "We're not offering easy answers." Boyer hopes that the various group conversations will get queer men to self-evaluate their sexual activities.

The program wants men to think about the Moment before it happens, so that they can transform an essentially irrational moment into a more controlled one. "Do the work now," Boyer says, "don't wait for the Moment."

To get the word out about the Moment, designers created an advertising campaign to entice and puzzle. The flashy pink ads



on billboards, in bathrooms, and in local publications left everyone wondering what the Moment could be. Young men in Club Universe asked if the Moment was a new club. Was it a perfume, a magazine, a store, or a television show?

This innovative approach was borrowed from today's mass-media advertising techniques. In fact, "hey queer boys get ready for the Moment" evolved directly from "Get Ready to Rock," the slogan for the summer blockbuster *The Rock*.

This modern approach is well-suited to the target audience. Q Action serves queer men 25 and under — those who have grown up in an environment of sound and video bites. The designers knew this because they are part of the target audience. They know what catches the eyes of young gay and bisexual men, what they read, and where they hang out.

And the campaign seems to be a success: so many calls came in to Q Action that the receptionist was overwhelmed, and a new mailbox had to be created. "I know 75 percent of gay and bi men are wondering [what the Moment is]. I don't doubt that," says Boyer.

The whole advertising campaign has been very cost effective, he adds. Most of the design was donated by a local design company, Diseño. The pink and black graphics have been reproduced very cheaply onto stickers and postcards. The Moment even made its own condoms by putting a pink sticker on condom packages.

Boyer also says people in Europe want to import the Moment to help safe sex efforts on that continent. ▼

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Medical marijuana hearing today

by Cynthia Laird

The August 4 raid on the Cannabis Buyers Club by state narcotics officers has prompted a 1 p.m. hearing before the San Francisco Board of Supervisors Thursday, August 15. The supervisors, led by Tom Ammiano, are expected to ask city health officials to declare a medical emergency allowing patients to use marijuana as a medicine.

Ammiano and others have already said they believe state laws forbidding the use of marijuana may be circumvented by declaring

an emergency. San Francisco already has such a program in place regarding needle exchange.

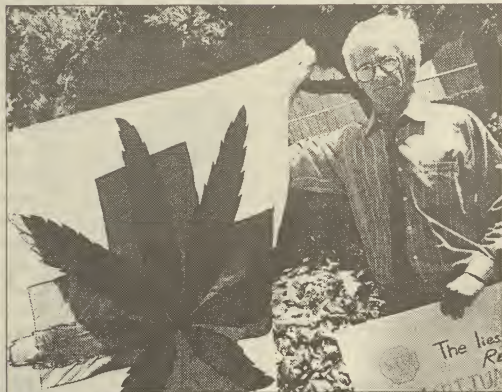
The city attorney's office said that it has no legal opinion on the resolution at this time, and Dr. Sandra Hernandez, the city's director of public health, remained noncommittal.

State Justice Department spokesman Steve Telliano has said

herited an "impossible situation."

"In the middle of the war on drugs raging through our country, I attempted to open a club that would sell marijuana to sick people," he said, adding that since then he has become a "lightning rod for those who would divide and conquer."

Peron admitted mistakes in running the CBC, but said, "If



CBC founder Dennis Peron: "I must leave the club for it to continue."

that county supervisors lack the authority to declare medical emergencies with the intention of circumventing the law. He said that the needle exchange program is "illegal," despite being sanctioned by the city.

In a related matter, CBC founder Dennis Peron announced Tuesday, August 13 that he is leaving the club he started in 1991.

"It is with a sad heart that I must leave the Buyers Club," Peron said in a written statement. But, he acknowledged, "I must leave the club for it to continue."

In his letter, Peron said he in-

there is any blame for the raid, for the sloppy way the club was run, it is because I ran it with my heart instead of my head.

"In my loneliness I ran the club like a country club instead of a medical facility. I apologize to the wonderful people who have supported the cause of freedom, if I have let you down."

Peron plans to remain director of Californians for Compassionate Use, the group that is sponsoring Proposition 215 on the November ballot, which would allow the medical use of marijuana throughout the state. ▼

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Oakland council forms medical marijuana group

by Cynthia Laird

The Oakland City Council unanimously passed a resolution that establishes a working group to ensure that Oakland police officers adhere to the city's tolerant medical marijuana policy.

The city's Public Safety/Health and Human Services Committee developed the working group concept in June. According to City Manager Craig G. Kocian, the group will most likely consist of 12 members, including city staffers, members of the public, and interested council representatives.

The working group's primary task will be to analyze and frame the city's medical marijuana policy. The city council established a policy that law enforcement activities regarding medical marijuana use shall be a low priority for the city.

The Oakland Police Department has also established a practice and policy that the medical use of marijuana is and will continue to be pursued at a low priority, according to Kocian's report.

"I believe that this marks the first time a legislative body at any level of government has established an official committee with

the express purpose of ensuring that the police do not enforce marijuana laws," said Oakland attorney Robert Raich, one of the people involved in forming the working group.

Specifically, the resolution states that a "working group shall consider legislative and administrative methods to ensure enforcement of and compliance with the city's medical marijuana policy."

Craziness to reality

The passage of the Oakland resolution occurred just days prior to the August 4 raid by the state Department of Narcotic Enforcement on the San Francisco Cannabis Buyers Club (CBC).

The resolution, adopted July 30, mentions support for the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Club (CBC), which allows people to purchase marijuana for medical use. The club operates on a much smaller

scale than the Cannabis Buyers Club in San Francisco did before it was ordered shut down by a superior court judge August 5.

Liana Held, co-director of the Oakland CBC, told the B.A.R. that the "craziness has given way to reality," regarding the flood of calls the East Bay club received after the San Francisco CBC was closed.

"We opened our location on July 4 and had about 150 members," Held said. "Now we have over 330."

Prior to opening a location in Oakland, the club delivered marijuana for medical use to its 150 members.

She added that the club's limited resources - they have old computer equipment and limited fax capability - have made the paperwork associated with new members overwhelming.

"We're starting to piece together

page 23 ►

Docs say yes to medical marijuana

United Press International

The San Francisco Medical Society endorsed a controversial ballot initiative Thursday, August 8 to legalize marijuana for medical uses.

The group, which represents about 2,200 doctors in San Francisco, announced its support for Proposition 215 just four days after state law enforcement closed down San Francisco's Cannabis Buyers Club, which provided marijuana to people with AIDS, cancer, and other diseases.

Additionally, the California Academy of Family Physicians, representing about 7,500 doctors, joined the society in its endorsement Wednesday.

The initiative would allow doctors to prescribe marijuana and enable patients to pick it up at the drugstore along with other legal medicines.

However, Governor Pete Wilson and California Attorney General Dan Lungren oppose the initiative because they believe it would make it easier for healthy people to obtain and use marijuana.

San Francisco Medical Society President Dr. Toni J. Brayer said the society based its decision on the results of an opinion poll of doctors who treat AIDS and cancer patients as well as drug addicts.

The doctors surveyed reportedly told the society that they believed legalizing marijuana was a good idea because it was a useful drug for some patients despite the moderate risk of addiction.

"This initiative is an important one ... it will protect our patients," Brayer said. "What we want to do as physicians is to relieve pain and suffering." ▼

No on 215 campaign takes a hit

Sacramento Superior Court Judge William Ridgeway ruled Friday, August 9 that the "No on 215" anti-medical marijuana campaign is "misleading," and ordered changes in the ballot argument to be printed in the November election handbook.

Both Los Angeles District Attorney Gil Garcetti and the American Cancer Society had objected that the argument misrepresented their positions. Specifically, Garcetti demanded the group stop listing him as a member of their coalition; the cancer group complained to California Secretary of State Bill Jones - himself a co-sponsor of the "No on 215" campaign, with Attorney General Dan Lungren - about the main headline, "American Cancer Society Says No."

The society is not against Proposition 215. Ridgeway ordered the passage removed immediately.

The ballot argument also claimed that "No Major Doctors' Organization Supports Prop. 215," despite its endorsement by the San Francisco Medical Society and the American Academy of Family Physicians, groups representing more than 9,000 physicians.

The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) denounced what it called a "thread of major errors occurring throughout the argument against Proposition 215 [and] clear evidence of either incompetence or direct intent to mislead voters this November." ▼

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Same-sex marriage issue raises ruckuses in Sacto

by Cynthia Laird

The political battle in Sacramento is heating up again over an Assembly bill that would prohibit recognition of same-sex marriage performed in other states, but would create a statewide domestic partner registry. At the same time, a Senate bill that has nothing to do with recognition of same-sex marriages was amended to include that language.

Assembly Bill 1982, the original bill that would prohibit recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other states, passed out of a state senate committee Monday, August 12 with a 7-1 vote. The bill was amended to include a statewide domestic partner reg-

istry, with language that is still in the bill, according to Michael Colbruno, an aide to Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco). That amendment was added on July 8 after a lengthy hearing on the bill.

Republican Assemblyman Pete Knight, author of the portion of AB 1982 prohibiting recognition of same-sex marriages, was unsuccessful in his attempt Monday to add various compromises to the bill concerning the domestic partner registry. The additions failed on a 10-0 vote, Colbruno said.

According to Colbruno, the statewide domestic partner registry in AB 1982 would be the most comprehensive in the country — if it is ever implemented.

The bill is expected to go to the Senate floor later this week.

Forfeiture bill

Senate Bill 2075, as originally drafted, dealt with reimbursements to counties and cities of certain fines and forfeitures. However, as Migden alerted her colleagues in an August 6 memo, the bill's original contents have been deleted and replaced with language that would prohibit recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other states.

After the rewritten bill passed out of committee, Assemblyman John Burton (D-San Francisco) sought the opinion of Legislative Counsel as to whether the changes to SB 2075 were germane to the original legislation.

Deputy Legislative Counsel Jack G. Zorman issued an opinion July 12 that the amendments made to SB 2075 pertaining to the definition of marriage as "a civil contract between a man and a



John Phelan/CNN

Assemblywoman Carole Migden blew the whistle on the "new and improved" SB 2075.

woman" were not germane to the bill, under Assembly Rule 92 and Joint Rule 9, both of which pertain to rules for legislation.

However, as Zorman also pointed out, the issue of whether amendments are germane "is a decision of the house in which the point of order on the subject is made."

Colbruno conceded that the Republican-controlled Assembly has the 41 votes needed to pass SB 2075, despite the legislative counsel's opinion.

Colbruno said the whole issue is an example of what some legislators are willing to do regarding the same-sex marriage debate.

"They're willing to skirt the process," Colbruno said.

SB 2075 was scheduled for another hearing in the Assembly this week. ▼

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Cal lawmakers deal with AIDS drug duties

by Cynthia Laird

California's two Democratic senators, Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer, introduced legislation on August 2 that would eliminate the tariff for a number of chemical compounds required for the manufacture of a new AIDS drug.

Identical legislation has been introduced in the House of Representatives by California Democratic Congressmen Robert Matsui

and Bill Bray. The drug, a protease inhibitor called nelfinavir mesylate, has produced promising test results in blocking replication of the HIV virus in cells. Nelfinavir mesylate is currently on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's fast track approval process for AIDS drugs.

Under the recently negotiated World Trade Organization (WTO) pharmaceutical agreement, nelfinavir, as well as many other new pharmaceutical products, will enter the country free of tariffs beginning April 1, 1997.

However, the chemicals, which are currently imported duty-free for use in clinical research trials, will soon be used for commercial production and, as such, will be subject to a 12 percent tariff until the WTO agreement goes into effect next April.

The proposed legislation, if approved, will eliminate the tariffs immediately, instead of waiting until next April.

"In America today, AIDS is the

of developing these new drugs."

During negotiations with the WTO nations to implement the pharmaceutical zero tariff, the Clinton Administration successfully added the chemical compounds needed to manufacture nelfinavir.

"Since the WTO negotiations will already provide a zero tariff for the chemical compounds on April 1, this legislation will likely have a diminished impact on tariff revenue," Feinstein said. "For AIDS patients, their families, and those at risk, it's a very small price to pay indeed." ▼



Dynamic duo: California U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein.

and Brian Bilbray.

The drug, a protease inhibitor called nelfinavir mesylate, has produced promising test results in blocking replication of the HIV virus in cells. Nelfinavir mesylate is currently on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's fast track approval process for AIDS drugs.

Under the recently negotiated World Trade Organization (WTO) pharmaceutical agreement, nelfinavir, as well as many other new pharmaceutical products,

leading cause of death for young Americans between the ages of 25 and 44. One out of every 200 Californians is HIV-positive, while in my home town of San Francisco, one of every 25 is HIV-positive," Feinstein said.

"The last thing we need to be doing is making promising new treatments more expensive or harder to obtain."

She added that the proposed legislation "will make a small contribution toward cutting the costs



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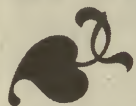
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Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Tom Baranaukas

Oct. 28, 1959 – Aug. 8, 1996



Love unconditionally/forgive/show compassion/and remember you are precious.

Tom was born in Schenectady, New York. After some time in New York City, he came to San Francisco in 1985. In 1988 he joined Project Open Hand. His greatest accomplishment was setting up the computer systems for Open Hand, to which he gave most of his time, including sick time and vacation time. He was working all the time because it was urgent to feed all these people with AIDS. Tom gave, gave, and gave his time and money to Open Hand, Glide Memorial Church (which he loved) and many friends.

Tom's life was touched by partner Rico, Darryl, Reggie, Juan, Joseph, Astor, Bona, Greg, David, Mark B., Mark S., Jose, Peggy, Lee, Steve, the Open Hand family and plenty of friends. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Building Fund of Glide Memorial Church or to Open Hand. A memorial service will take place at Glide Memorial Church, 330 Ellis Street, San Francisco.

co, on Sunday, August 18, at 1 p.m.

Joseph John Besio

Oct. 2, 1956 – Aug. 7, 1996



Joseph John Besio died at home in San Francisco on Wednesday, August 7. Joe was born in San Jose, grew up in Healdsburg, graduated from Cardinal Newman High School, and attended San Francisco State University. He was employed by Pacific Bell for over 15 years and performed with the San Jose Civic Light Opera. Mr. Besio's interests included theatre, travel, cooking, fine wine, nature, and country and western dancing.

Joe's life was dedicated to his friends and family. He was known for his gentle spirit, warm smile, and ability to appreciate the beauty of life's simple pleasures. He will be remembered for his love, generosity, compassion, loyalty, integrity, and genuine concern for life and humanity.

Joe is survived by his life partner, Alberto Martinez; his mother, Kathryn Besio; his family; and his friends. A memorial Mass and celebration of Joe's life will be held at St. John's Roman Catholic Church, 208 Matheson St. in Healdsburg, on Friday, August 16, at 11 a.m. In his memory, donations can be made to Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco or San Jose, Project Open Hand or the ARIS Project in San Jose.

Hiram Febles

Aug. 16, 1956 – Aug. 2, 1996



Hiram was born in Puerto Rico and grew up in New York City, where he attended college. He moved to San Francisco in 1988. He worked as a patient intake clerk at Langley Porter Hospital at UCSF Medical Center.

Hiram was preceded in death by his

parents. His lover of 1-1/2 years, Douglas Mook, died on June 6, 1996. He is survived by the following 10 brothers and sisters of New York, New Jersey and Puerto Rico: Luis, Celso, Edgardo, Nahir, Lisette, Jo Ann, Saul, Elsa, Annette and Alan Febles; numerous nieces and nephews; and many friends in New York and San Francisco.

More than anything, Hiram loved sports. He broke his high school long jump record in 1974 at Lafayette High School in Brooklyn, New York. In 1975, he placed second in New York City in a citywide long jump competition. In the 1990 Gay Olympics in Vancouver, Canada, he won a bronze medal in the men's 4 x 100 meter relay, a silver medal in the men's javelin, a bronze medal in the men's long jump and a silver medal in the men's triple jump.

Hiram's ashes have been buried next to his beloved grandmother's grave in Puerto Rico.

Bill Myers

Aug. 28, 1946 – March 14, 1996



Bill passed away at Avalon House in Sacramento after a lengthy struggle with several AIDS-related complications. He had recently moved back to Sacramento to be cared for by his immediate family.

after his retirement from the UCSF Department of Neurology. He will be remembered as one who would give the shirt off his back to help someone out of a jam, a regular at the dance clubs, Ward 5A volunteer and always shopping.

Bill is survived by Marge, Terry, Otis, Frances and the last love of his life, his cat Moe. Thanks to the Avalon House for the loving care given to him in his last days. Bill was inurned at the Trinity Cathedral Columbarium in Sacramento. Any remembrances should be sent to either: Avalon House, P.O. Box 161908, Sacramento, CA 95816 or Trinity Cathedral, 2620 Capitol Ave., Sacramento, CA 95816.

The last column

◀ page 1

pearls of wisdom, which, after all, seemed pretty important to me.

Reluctant Cassandra

People assumed that I enjoyed making trouble and that I was an iconoclast just for the fun of it. Alas, it's not true, though occasionally I got a little perverse thrill from spilling the beans. As time went on, I more and more came to hate my role as Cassandra (the ancient Trojan prophetess whose invariably accurate predications were invariably ignored) and the endless conflicts it got me involved in. At long last, I learned to limit my outbursts, and have since led a more peaceful if still turbulent life.

It is this part of my essential nature, I think, that led to my life being so singularly devoid of honors and awards, despite a readership poll that showed I was the

most widely read feature in the Bay Area Reporter. Although many love me, many also hate me, and this pretty much blackballs me when it's time for community recognition. When you've offended nearly every person in power, you can't expect them to give you medals.

Frankly, I'm a child of Kali, the Hindu god of destruction. The Hindu pantheon is ruled by three prime deities: Brahma the Creator, Vishnu the Preserver, and Kali the Destroyer. The point is that all three are necessary for dynamic growth and change. I can create some, but I do better at destroying. Show me a scientific study, and I'll find all the hidden flaws limiting its validity – virtually all studies have them. Present me with an argument, and I'll point out its logical inconsistencies – virtually all arguments have them. Display an ideology, and I'll spot just who it benefits and who it enslaves. There has yet to be any ideology on the planet that doesn't enslave somebody.

And the sad thing, from my perspective, is that I can't help myself. Most people easily deceive themselves when necessary, ignoring the most obvious facts when social pressure dictates. I can't

help myself. Even when I agree with the conclusion of an argument, I can still see its flaws. Even when I want a study to prove a point, I can see how it fails to do so.

And people are always upset when you challenge their cherished illusions. And the more effective your challenge is the angrier they'll be. Ultimately, if they have power but you have truth, they're compelled to denounce you to preserve their power (as you are compelled to denounce them if you wish to preserve your truth).

Perennial party pooper

So, from my perspective, I wasn't ever trying to make trouble, but I was compelled to call 'em as I see 'em. This is a strange and unforgivable compulsion, but I've never been able to stifle it. I think it has made me an excellent writer – I have something I feel is important to say, I say it clearly and directly – but also something of a controversial figure, a perennial party pooper.

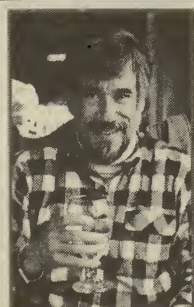
But, goddamn it, I was almost always right! It's amazing how little that counts for. "The truth will set you free" they say, but it has al-

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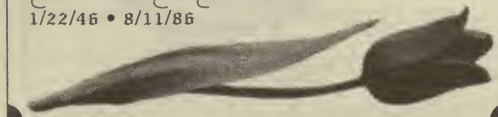


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Docs find genetic resistance to HIV

by Michael Smith, UPI

In the first discovery that explains why some people are resistant to HIV, researchers at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York City said Thursday, August 8 they have found a genetic mutation that prevents the virus from infecting cells.

But, researcher Richard Koup, MD, cautioned, "Very few people will actually have resistance to sexually transmitted HIV through this mechanism." In fact, he said, preliminary estimates indicate fewer than one per cent of Caucasians have the mutation. Estimates for other groups haven't been made.

The study by Koup, Nathaniel Landau, and others, in the journal *Cell*, is the first to point to a genetic reason for some people's immunity to the disease. But Koup pointed out the genetic explanation isn't true for all cases of resistance. In fact, of the 25 people studied — all exposed but uninfected — only three had the mutation and the *Cell* paper only reports on two.

The three with the mutation were exposed early in the HIV epidemic, Koup said. "These are individuals who watched 40 or 50 of their friends become infected and die, who watched their lovers become infected and die, and never themselves became infected," he said.

"This is the first observation

that nails it [resistance] down on the molecular level," said Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. But Fauci cautioned that the mutation isn't a "free ticket" for those who have it; the virus may have other ways of infecting a cell than the one blocked by the mutation.

And he, like Koup, noted the mutation isn't a complete explanation of why some people fight off the virus.

Too short

The mutation affects a molecule called CKR-5 that has only this year been linked — by Landau and others at the Aaron Diamond center — to the ability of the sexually transmitted form of the virus to enter host cells.

The invading HIV particles first attach themselves to cells of the immune system, using a CD4 molecule. Then they enter the cell using the CKR-5 molecule, which serves as an entryway through the cell wall.

The three individuals Koup and Landau studied had a mutation that made their CKR-5 molecules too short to go through the wall of the cell, so the invading HIV particles had no entrance.

The CKR-5 molecule usually plays a role in transmitting the signals that govern the immune

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Effect of ethnicity, single gene discussed

by Bob Roehr

Two teams of researchers simultaneously and independently discovered the double genetic mutation that may help determine HIV infection and progression. In addition to the researchers at the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, whose findings about CKR-5 appear in the August 9 issue of *Cell* [see accompanying story], scientists at the Free University of Brussels will publish their results in the August 22 issue of *Nature*.

Dr. Marc Parmentier, heading up the Brussels team, compared healthy Caucasians to those infected with HIV, and found 20 percent of the former appeared to have a single mutated CKR-5 gene, but the mutation appeared much less often among those infected with HIV.

He concluded that a single mutation may offer some limited level of protection from initial infection. He also believes that people with a single mutation are more likely to be slow progressors from initial infection to an AIDS diagnosis. That is presumably because the virus cannot enter cells as efficiently, and hence multiplies less quickly.

The genetic factor might offer a partial explanation as to why the epidemic has so devastated Africa and is growing more rapidly among communities of color than among whites in the United States.

Parmentier conducted a small study of Central Africans and Japanese and did not detect the mutation within those ethnic groups. That suggests it might be limited to Caucasians. Similar genetic patterns of susceptibility or resistance to certain diseases are well known.

The CKR-5 mutation does not appear to affect their host in any other way. That opens the door to a possible line of research for therapy. It may be possible to artificially do what the mutation does naturally, block entrance of HIV to the cell, thus preventing infection and breaking the cycle of replication among those already infected. Exploring those possibilities will take years of research. ▼

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What to expect if you're starting protease

by Kate Krauss, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers Pool

Much has been published about the effectiveness of protease inhibitors, a new class of powerful antiviral AIDS drugs that have been shown in clinical trials to dramatically decrease the amount of virus in the blood (viral load) and raise CD4 levels, but comparatively little has been written about the day-to-day implications of starting them.

So far, three protease inhibitors have been approved for sale by the FDA, and several more are in the pipeline and may be available within a year. The FDA-approved drugs are Abbott's Ritonavir (Norvir), Merck's Crixivan (Indinavir), and Hoffman-La Roche's Saquinavir (Invirase).

Before beginning therapy, people with AIDS should read Project Inform's guide to protease inhibitors or the National AIDS Treatment Advocacy Project's HIV Protease Inhibitor Report (see below for contact information). Patients should learn about the drugs ahead of time, so they can avoid having to discontinue therapy because of side effects or drug interactions. This is especially important with protease inhibitors, because *any* drop in the drug level in the blood (either because of a missed dose, a "drug holiday," or discontinuation of the therapy altogether) may allow resistant strains of the virus to emerge in the body. These drug-resistant strains may be resistant to other

protease inhibitors, as well.

Because there are many variables in taking protease inhibitors (severe drug interactions, resistance, the importance of complying to a dosage schedule) patients should try to work closely with a doctor in choosing a treatment strategy that involves these drugs.

People with AIDS should also consider their own general health in deciding whether to take a protease inhibitor. Patients in relatively good health may benefit by waiting a few months before beginning protease inhibitor therapy. There will be more drugs to choose from, and we will know more about effective combinations, drug interactions, and side effects. For example, a person in stable health with a viral load of 10,000 copies and a CD4 cell count of 500 might be a good candidate to wait.

The drug's effectiveness is also, of course, important. Saquinavir is thought to be the least potent of the three available proteases (although it can still be helpful), but the best tolerated by most people. Crixivan and Ritonavir are roughly on par in terms of efficacy, but Ritonavir causes many side effects. In addition, protease inhibitors are much more effective in combination with other antivirals (AZT/3TC/Saquinavir, for example) than on their own. The most effective combinations are comprised of drugs the patient has not used before.

People with AIDS should seriously evaluate the possible side effects of the drug, because stopping therapy could invite viral resis-

tance. Ritonavir produces a wide range of serious side effects, including nausea, vomiting, lack of energy, and tingling around the mouth and extremities. Crixivan seems to cause fewer side effects (the chief one is microscopic kidney stones, which can be alleviated by ensuring adequate water intake) and is better tolerated. Saquinavir is well tolerated by most people, and this may mean that patients can stay on the drug a long time.

Drug interactions are another important consideration in choosing a protease inhibitor. Ritonavir blocks a liver enzyme that helps people process other drugs, and this can lead to life-threatening overdoses of drugs that they are taking with Ritonavir. Some of these drugs include the anti-MAC drug Rifabutin, as well as a variety of painkillers, antidepressants, cold/sinus/allergy medicines, and antacids. People considering Ritonavir should carefully review the list of known drug interactions with their doctor. There are, no doubt, many more drugs that could cause this problem but have not been identified yet, so patients should proceed carefully with other compounds, including traditional and alternative therapies, over-the-counter medicines, and recreational drugs and alcohol.

All three protease inhibitors must be taken on a strict schedule to avoid allowing drug levels in the blood to drop. Patients should

consider whether they will be able to adhere to such a schedule when deciding whether to try one of these drugs. People may want to try a strict schedule with vitamins, to gauge whether they will be able to comply with taking protease inhibitors.

Crixivan must be taken on an empty stomach, while Saquinavir and Ritonavir must be taken along with fatty meals. In addition, people must coordinate the protease inhibitor with the other drugs they are taking: for example, ddI should be taken one hour from Crixivan.

Patients should think about their history with drug-related side effects when choosing a protease inhibitor, as this may predict how well they will tolerate the new drug. For example, people who have experienced drug-related gastrointestinal problems in the past may be poor candidates for Ritonavir, which often causes these side effects. However, Abbott Labs claims that Ritonavir side effects may pass after a few weeks.

Patients starting a protease inhibitor should set aside time to adjust to side effects and any drug interactions, and should discuss possible side effects, and their treatment, before beginning therapy. People should not combine protease inhibitors on their own, because of potentially very serious drug interactions. People should not take Seldane or Hismana with any of the three approved protease inhibitors.

Here are some additional tips regarding the three FDA-approved proteases:

Saquinavir:

Must be taken three times a day, with fatty meals (this can be cheese, chocolate or peanut butter, in a pinch). Only four percent of this drug reaches the bloodstream; a stronger, more effective formulation may be available in six months to a year. Some people with AIDS are stockpiling the drug and taking it at double or triple the dosage to get more into the bloodstream, increasing efficacy. However, this doubles or triples the cost and may increase side effects (diarrhea, generally). The bioavailability of the drug (the

amount that gets in to the body) can be increased by up to 50 percent by drinking grapefruit juice during and one hour after the dose (under a doctor's supervision - this may affect other drugs, as well.) The resistance profile of Saquinavir may allow you to take other protease inhibitors in the future. Saquinavir should not be taken with rifampin.

Crixivan:

In clinical trials, the most common side effect was tiny kidney stones composed of undissolved drug. The risk of developing these can be reduced by drinking plenty of water. (These microscopic kidney stones did not cause patients to drop the drug, generally.) Can be taken with a light snack (crackers). More effective than saquinavir; fewer side effects than Ritonavir. Persons taking Crixivan must halve their dosage of Rifabutin to avoid interactions. Drug interactions have been noted with ketoconazole, as well. At about \$5,000 per year (depending on your payment plan), the cheapest of the currently available protease inhibitors.

Ritonavir:

Severe side effects that may lessen with time. Abbott is suggesting that persons gradually increase dosage over five days to limit side effects (no longer than five days, or resistance may emerge. Also, don't try this gradual approach with the other protease inhibitors without medical advice, because of resistance concerns.) May cause severe drug interactions with at least 23 commonly used drugs; many more are likely to be discovered. Check the list of known drug interactions before taking this drug; the dosage of some other drugs may have to be adjusted upward. Tobacco is shown to reduce blood levels of Ritonavir by eighteen percent, possibly leading to a drop in effectiveness. Very effective in suppressing viral load and raising CD4 counts. Ritonavir has also been shown in clinical trials to prolong patients' lives. ▼

Project Inform, National AIDS Treatment Advocacy Project
<http://www.aidsnyc.org/natap>
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Genetic

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system. But despite their lack of these molecules, Koup said, the three individuals appeared perfectly healthy - something that may be good news for others at risk from the disease.

"People don't seem to need these molecules," Koup said. "What that probably means is that we can try to block that molecule - and thus block the ability of HIV to use the molecule as an entry - and we shouldn't see any adverse effects."

Help after infection

Koup said blocking the virus out of cells could help people even after they've been infected: Infected cells eventually die naturally and if no new cells were being infected, the level of the virus in the system would fall.

"If you block any new infection," Koup said, "you're going to have an anti-viral effect."

CKR-5 is one of a large class of

molecules known as chemokine receptors. Koup said other chemokine receptors may take up the slack when CKR-5 isn't present, accounting for the lack of adverse effects.

At the same time, he said, there have been rare cases where HIV used two other chemokine receptors - CKR-2B and CKR-3 - as entries to cells, so that a CKR-5 blocker would not be a sure-fire preventive.

A more-virulent form of HIV, which usually appears later, just before the symptoms of AIDS occur, uses another molecule, called the fusin receptor, to enter cells.

But although the three people in the study had normal fusin receptors, they did not become infected with the late-stage virus either, Koup said, even though in lab tests their cells were easily infected.

Koup said there may be some other protective mechanism at work. Or, he said, it could simply be a result of the fact that the late-stage virus is hard to transmit sexually. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

San Diego

◀ page 1

Tafel said at a press conference Monday that he thought labor unions had a financial interest in Voices and were pro-Clinton and therefore not friends of their friends in Congress.

NGLTF press spokesperson Kerry Lobel responded, "We're proud of the participation of labor. We think it's a good thing."

Nonspecific overtures

Log Cabin members circulated throughout the Marriott Hotel next to the convention center, wearing "Big Tent" labels on their jackets, trying to garner interviews with regional and national media in their suites and newsrooms. The club, which held its annual national conference before the convention, had half a dozen member-delegates inside the hall, including Judy Purrington of the Silicon Valley chapter, which (unlike San Francisco's) has six female members, including its vice president.

Earlier, when GOP Representative Tom Campbell of Palo Alto

addressed the group at a Sunday luncheon, some members who had contributed to his campaign made it clear they were angry about his vote for the Defense of Marriage Act. Campbell seemed to finesse the issue, saying he'd done a day's research in the Library of Congress and found there were precedents for supporting it. He also said that as a former law professor he had to call things as he sees things. He defended himself by saying he'd written an op-ed for the *L.A. Times* in which he stated gays should have the same rights as heterosexuals.

Log Cabin members declined to endorse Dole at their convention, saying they prefer to wait for a sign or overture that their endorsement matters to a party for whom they've made financial and volunteer efforts. According to Tafel, however, "If we were satisfied with overtures, we had those months ago."

"It has to be more than that," he said at a Sunday press conference.

"Many members are torn up," he acknowledged. While most members don't think Dole be-

lieves in discrimination against us, he said, they're waiting to see what a Dole administration might look like. Referring to the homophobic head of the Family Research Council, he said, "If Gary Bauer is going to be head of Health and Human Services, forget it." A Friday mailing will poll members on whether or not to endorse; some have questioned what kind of credibility they'll have as a political organization if they fail to endorse twice in a row.

Tafel, who has a divinity degree from Harvard and was an aide to Governor William Weld of Massachusetts, said he just wished gay activists "would be consistent. If they're going to protest at the Republican Convention," he complained, "they should also do so at the Democrats," since Clinton's record on gay issues hasn't been that great.

Even testier was Candace Gingrich, whose patience was obviously put to the test by the Log Cabin Club's buttons.

"Big Tent, my ass," she said at the rally. "Right wing extremists have hijacked this convention. We must keep them from hijacking the country." ▼

Comm. Center

◀ page 1

ditions, as well as individual donors.

"We expect contributions to range from five dollars on up. We want everyone to feel welcome to contribute whatever they can," Shafer said.

Not the QCC

Shafer also told the *B.A.R.* that the organization is not competing with the Queer Cultural Center (QCC), a separate group working on getting an art and cultural center for the queer community in San Francisco.

"I've talked with Pam Peniston, and she said they'd be looking for temporary space, they might be looking at the Community Center," Shafer said.

Peniston is president of the QCC Board of Directors. The QCC would focus primarily on artists and nonprofit arts organizations serving the gay community. That group held its second town hall meeting on August 3 to get input about the QCC, which is still in the planning stages.

Shafer said that the Queer Cultural Center might utilize space at the community center for exhibits, while the community center, in turn, could use gallery space at the QCC.

In addition to the work going on concerning the community center and the QCC, there have also been discussions of a visitor information center/museum by the Castro Area Planning and Action (CAPA) group.

Proponents of the community center have stressed that San Francisco is one of the major cities in the nation without a gay community center. A resolution in support of the center that was unanimously approved by the supervisors on July 29 stated that a community center is "critical to increasing dialogue and understanding between members of the community across lines of gender, race, age, HIV status, income levels, and other differences." ▼

For more information or to make a donation, call the CCP at (415) 241-1526 or write 584 Castro Street, #450, San Francisco CA 94114.

The last column

◀ page 20

ways enslaved me, drafting me into uncomfortable crusades in its defense. NAMBLA was horribly slandered in the local media a few years ago, a fact I easily demonstrated whenever I got the chance. I rarely did. The mere fact that I would listen to them at all was held to disqualify me as an independent judge! The incredible heat I took for stating easily proved facts frightened me, and by that time, I was already pretty hard-boiled.

Yet, once I'd raised the issue, I couldn't just let go and let the opposition win without a fight. Despite death threats and phone harassment and horrified vilification from many of my friends and even my partner (who otherwise has supported me in all my various unpopular causes), I persisted in covering the story for several weeks until, morally exhausted, I threw in the towel. The truth does not set you free. Stupid thugs with nothing but naked lies to justify their actions will beat well-meaning, peaceful, weaker types who just happen to be right every time.

For some years now, I've been fighting atavistically, from contrary instinct and love of truth wherever it may lie, rather than from any joy of battle. I hardly ever win, but I almost always score a few points. I have for some time had no hope of victory in either the short or long run, yet contin-

ue to struggle out of an inability to do otherwise. As long as I can speak, I must speak the truth whatever the cost. The rewards have been meager, but I've had no choice but to play the role apparently assigned me by fate.

Well, now I can speak no longer. The creeps and the mighty who were irritated by my petty attacks will no doubt rejoice at my passing, which is perhaps my main regret in dying and the thought of this is one of the things that's kept me alive this long. At long last, I will have peace, assuming there's no afterlife, which, alas, I'm pretty sure of. It's just another one of those illusions far too comforting to be seriously challenged despite a complete lack of supporting evidence. Probably there's nothing after life but the void, which I have since joined.

It's possible that I'll live till there's a cure, in which case I'll publish this as a curiosity piece. But frankly, that just doesn't seem likely. So I'll leave you with these parting words:

Most of what you believe is false. Most of what everyone else believes is also false, though probably in some different ways. We need these illusions to live and will fight to preserve them as though we're defending life itself. And most of the time, in ordinary circumstances, it doesn't matter. But in times of crisis, survival depends on the ability to cut loose from comfortable nostrums and face threatening realities. Those who cannot die. Most of those who do also die, but some survive.

The truth, alas, is unlikely to set you free, but it may save or prolong your life.

Farewell and goddess bless you all. ▼

Details of an upcoming memorial service will appear in Michael's obituary, which he also penned, in next week's edition.

Corrections:

An editing error led to a misattribution in last week's story, "Gay SF agency hit with labor grievance." The quote, "From a budget perspective we needed to look at some cutbacks. From a fiscal perspective it was not efficient to operate at five facilities, so we are getting rid of two offices at 217 and 254 Church Street," came from an internal memo at the agency, and not in a direct interview with Executive Director Joe Neisan, Ph.D.

Also, in the story "Act Up/SF seizes Davies ER," Project Inform Program Services Director Ben Collins was erroneously identified as Executive Director Ben Carlson.

The *B.A.R.* regrets the errors.

Marijuana

◀ page 17

er the backlog of paperwork," Held said.

As for the supply of marijuana, it's holding up for now, Held said, though keeping the club stocked has been a "touch and go" situation.

The working group will make recommendations to the city council and is directed to report to the Public Safety, Health, Human Services, and the Family Committee no later than October 1, according to the resolution.

Earlier this year, the Oakland council declared its desire "not to expend city resources in any in-

vestigation, detention, arrest, or prosecution arising out of alleged violations of state and federal law regarding the possession, cultivation, and/or distribution of marijuana for medical use."

According to Kocian's report, data from the last seven years indicates only one documented arrest of a person who claimed to be involved in medical marijuana use; and police enforcement in that case stemmed from another violation of the law allegedly committed by the individual.

"As evidenced by the Police Services Agency's data, the law enforcement regarding marijuana for medical purposes has historically been a low priority," Kocian's report stated. ▼

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 206358
 The following person(s) are doing business as PRO-FASHION INC., 550 Jessie Street, Rm # 401, 4th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94103. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of July 22, 1996. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Tony Yat-Kai Wong. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on July 22, 1996.
July 25, Aug 1, 8, 15, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 206261
 The following person(s) are doing business as WEBFARMERS INTERNET SERVICES, 2064 Union, San Francisco, CA 94123. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of August 1, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed John Keagy. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on July 17, 1996.
July 25, Aug 1, 8, 15, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 205730
 The following person(s) are doing business as CAHILL & ASSOCIATES, 509 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of June 20, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Sean Cahill. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 26, 1996.
July 25, Aug 1, 8, 15, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 206263
 The following person(s) are doing business as SACRED SPACES, 1320 Fulton Street, San Francisco, CA 94117. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of July 17, 1996. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Karin Beij. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on July 17, 1996.
July 25, Aug 1, 8, 15, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 206074
 The following person(s) are doing business as SF SHOWROOM, 101 Henry Adams St. #350, San Francisco, CA 94103. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of July 10, 1996. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed Lani B. Taylor. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on July 10, 1996.
Aug 1, 8, 15, 22, 1996.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 979669
 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of RINA DOLORES DIAZ for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that RINA DOLORES DIAZ has filed an application proposing that HER name be change to RINA MAYA LUNA. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 30th day of August, 1996, at 9:00 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of the Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 15th day of July, 1996.
July 25, Aug 1, 8, 15, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 206551
 The following person(s) are doing business as CONCINITY COMMUNICATIONS, 1405 18th Street, San Francisco, CA 94107. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of June 1, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Kenneth Overholt. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on July 29, 1996.
Aug 1, 8, 15, 22, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 206428
 The following person(s) are doing business as MOM'S THE WORD MATERNITY, 3385 Sacramento St., San Francisco, CA 94118. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of July 24, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Sarah B. Pollak. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on July 24, 1996.
Aug 1, 8, 15, 22, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 206741
 The following person(s) are doing business as L. VOYAGER PRODUCTIONS, 2. VIRTUAL VOYAGE, 229 Shipley St., San Francisco, CA 94107. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of August 5, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Nick Yale. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 5, 1996.
Aug 8, 15, 22, 29, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 206129
 The following person(s) are doing business as EASTRIDGE INFOTECH, 311 California Street, 6th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104. The Eastridge Group Inc. A California Corporation, 2355 Northridge Drive, Ste 180, San Diego, CA 92108. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of April 27, 1992. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Robert Svet, President. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 21, 1996.
Aug 8, 15, 22, 29, 1996.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 979995
 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of GEORGE ALBERT SYNKOWSKI for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that GEORGE ALBERT SYNKOWSKI has filed an application proposing that HIS name be change to DUANE CARTER. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department X-4 on the 9th day of September, 1996, at 9:00 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of the Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 30th day of July, 1996.
Aug 8, 15, 22, 29, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 206787
 The following person(s) are doing business as DEMAURO SEAFOOD SALES, 7 Hidalgo Terrace, San Francisco, CA 94103. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of August 5, 1996. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed James John DeMauro. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on August 6, 1996.
Aug 8, 15, 22, 29, 1996.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 206261
 The following person(s) are doing business as WEBFARMERS INTERNET SERVICES, 2064 Union, San Francisco, CA 94123. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of August 1, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed John Keagy. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on July 17, 1996.
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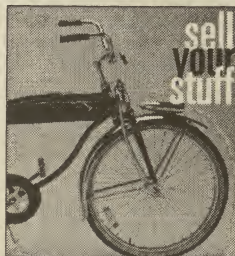
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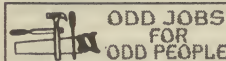
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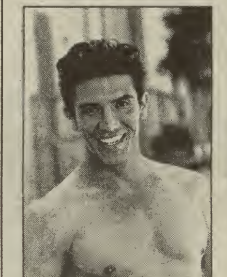
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Robert Altman's *Kansas City* has great music, strong cast but a dismal story that makes little sense.

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Performer Bambi Lake reflects on her life of glamour and fab lingerie

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Gary Fisher expressed the inexpressible about being black and gay.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 26 • No. 33 • 15 August 1996

Post-mortem

by Glen Helfand

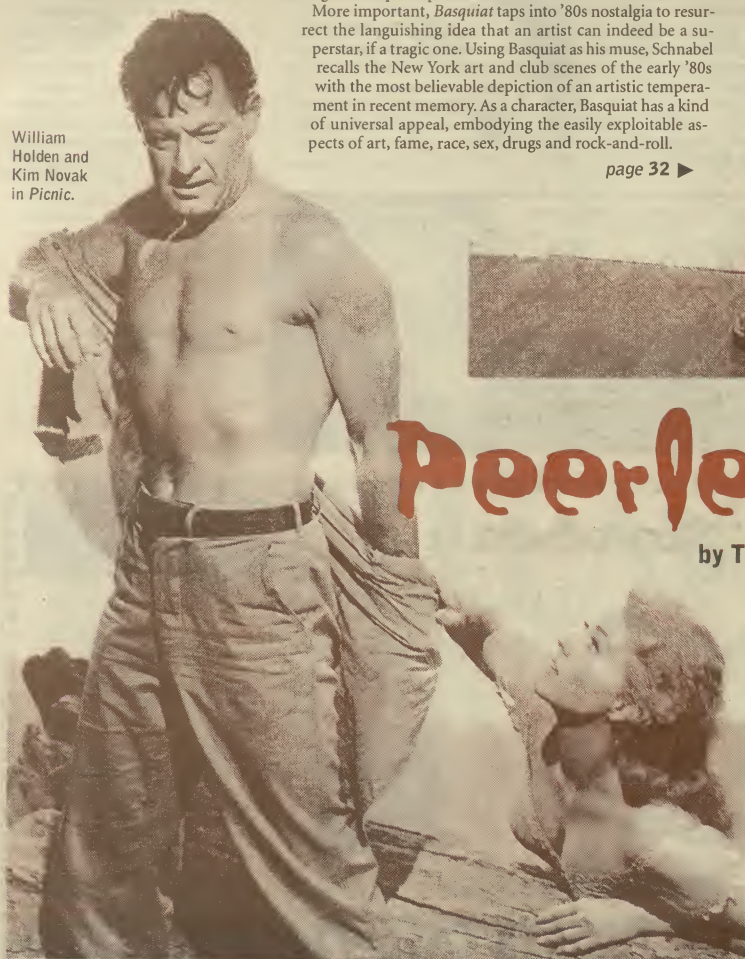
There aren't many role models left in the art world these days, at least not many with appeal outside the tiny subscription base of *Artforum* magazine. You might bear this in mind after seeing *Basquiat*, Julian Schnabel's biopic of his friend and fellow art star, the late Jean-Michel Basquiat. Both artists have appeared in the higher-circulation pages of *Vanity Fair* — more than once. And why not? Basquiat in particular led the kind of life of which urban romantic myths are made. The young Basquiat crawled out from the refrigerator box he'd been sleeping in to display a talent for energetic, graffiti-influenced paintings. In New York in the '80s he found his way to fame, fortune, and a rock star-style heroin overdose, all by the age of 27.

And Julian Schnabel, apparently, made enough money with his art to dabble in film a decade later. *Basquiat*, the movie, generally succeeds, despite Schnabel's vast, almost megalomaniacal presence. The artist wrote, directed, contributed original music, and even recreated the Basquiat paintings the late artist's estate refused permission to include. It's not wholly a vanity project, however. Schnabel has somehow managed an engaging, sometimes even subtle, insider's portrait of a man and a now-legendary era. The very hip cast, which includes David Bowie as Andy Warhol and cameos by Courtney Love, Tatum O'Neal and others, may showcase Schnabel's entertainment world connections, but they are usually breezy and entertaining, not cliquish, presences.

More important, *Basquiat* taps into '80s nostalgia to resurrect the languishing idea that an artist can indeed be a superstar, if a tragic one. Using Basquiat as his muse, Schnabel recalls the New York art and club scenes of the early '80s with the most believable depiction of an artistic temperament in recent memory. As a character, Basquiat has a kind of universal appeal, embodying the easily exploitable aspects of art, fame, race, sex, drugs and rock-and-roll.

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William Holden and Kim Novak in *Picnic*.



'Basquiat' is an insider's portrait of an artist

Jeffrey Wright is Jean-Michel Basquiat.

Peerless 'Picnic'

by Tavo Amador

Picnic, which plays the Castro Theatre this week, takes place on the afternoon, evening and following morning of Labor Day in a small Midwestern town. Kim Novak is Madge, the 18-year-old who wonders why her beauty is the only thing people ever notice about her. ("I get so tired of just being looked at.") Her mother, movingly played by Betty Field, warns that a pretty girl only has a few years "to be the equal of kings" and pushes her to marry the scion of the town's leading family, Cliff Robertson.

Enter freight-train-riding William Holden as Hal, a handsome stud, drifter, vagabond, former college athlete (and dropout), who failed to make it in Hollywood movies, or anything else. He's a fraternity brother of Robertson's and in need of a job. Robertson gives him one, but the attraction between Hal and Madge jeopardizes everyone's plans, including Hal's.

Holden is a sexy dreamer, and Novak, eager to escape the expectations of small-town life, buys into that dream. In the most memorable sequence in the Joshua Logan-helmed film, Novak and Holden do a seductive dance to "Moonglow." (Neither was much of a dancer in a technical sense. This sequence is memorable because it's so

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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Chris Culwell and
Pithy Galore

Though he's been dead for almost 10 years, **Andy Warhol** is still setting trends, this time in narrative cinema. Over the past five years, the shoe-illustrator-turned-art-star has been portrayed no less than three times in mainstream feature films: by **Crispin Glover** in **Oliver Stone's** 1991 *The Doors*; by **Jared Harris** in **Mary Harron's** *I Shot Andy Warhol*; and now by **David Bowie** in **Julian Schnabel's** *Basquiat*, about the much ballyhooed, late painter **Jean-Michel Basquiat**.

Of the three portrayals, each is suitably vague enough to be deemed superlative. What does it take, anyway? A good wig and a look of glazed bewilderment are about all an actor needs. Some, however, take issue with this dumb-blond portrait of Warhol. One local critic who attended the



David Bowie as Warhol, left, and the real McCoy, right, in 1985.

San Francisco press screening of *Basquiat* called for David Bowie's head on a plate when the lights came up. "It's a travesty," he screeched. "This is one of the most important artists of the 20th century."

Which just raises the question, if Warhol is so important, why hasn't some enterprising film-

maker committed his story to film? We've seen films about people around Warhol — **Jim Morrison**, **Valerie Solanas**, **Basquiat** — but nothing on this fascinating Svengali himself. Why the Warhol stopgap?

Stumped by this conundrum, we queried *The New Yorker* film critic **Terrence Rafferty**. "There are so many people guarding the Warhol legend," Rafferty said over the phone from New York, "that a film about Warhol may never be made." The art cognoscenti, he said, would hardly give its blessing to any characterization that overstates the notorious "dumb blond" persona.

Yet that very quality is a Warhol signifier. "It's true," said Rafferty. "Even the least experienced actor can do deadpan, the wig does the rest. Just about anyone thin and pale could pull it off."

Maybe ... maybe not

Perhaps a Warhol biopic could be Julian Schnabel's next directorial effort? After all, Schnabel knew Warhol quite well, and if anyone has the moxie to put Andy on the screen it would be the fearless Mr. Schnabel. Then again, maybe not. Despite his powerful connections and get-it-done attitude, Schnabel sometimes really misses the mark. Lord knows he missed it last year with that record he put out, *Every Silver Lining Has a Cloud*. In case you don't remember the recording, here's **Jeffrey Himes'** take on it, as culled

from the pages of *The Washington Post* in July of '95: "Schnabel is a Manhattan-painter-turned-celebrity, and he used that media clout to secure a recording contract even though he has no discernible talent for making music. He could be described generously as a cross between **Michael Bolton** and **Leonard Cohen**; unfortunately, on this record he writes songs like Bolton and sings like Cohen, instead of the other way around." Ouch!

Queer music awards

A huge crowd turned out last Friday night at Luna Park in LA for the announcement of this year's First Annual Gay/Lesbian American Music Awards, which will be handed out October 6 in New York. Among the nominees for best female artist are: **Catie Curtis**, **Ferron**, **kd lang** and **Melissa Etheridge**; the nominees for best male artist include: **Jallen Rix**, **Pussy Torette**, **Gregory Gray**, **Jeff Krassner** and the late **Michael Callen**. **Rix**, **Harvey Fierstein**, and **Callen** were also nominated in the best album category.

Extra Fancy's "What I Have" was nominated for outstanding achievement in a category that almost defies comprehension: "Single-song recording by self-identified lesbian, gay male or bisexual musical performer, or duo/group that contains at least one self-identified lesbian, gay male or bisexual musical performer and that speaks to/from the gay/lesbian/bisexual experience." We think someone needs an editor.

Temple of kitsch

The party of note last week was at **Ggreg Taylor's** place in the Haight. Taylor, who is forever popping in and out of retirement from swankdom, threw the bash to christen his new apartment, which he has stuffed full of *tchotchkes* from recent tours of Thrift Stores in the Spokane area,

whence Ggreg hails. Typical of Taylor's get-togethers, Saturday's crowd was comprised of local art and cultural makers. Artist **Timothy Cummings**, Rough Justice Comics creator **Brian McNally**, and handsome **Tom Radulovich** (who is running for the BART board) were among the many attractive, hunky, tattooed,

be-ringed, head-shaven and deliciously youthful guests who crammed themselves into Taylor's Baker Street flat.

The lower portion of the food chain was represented by **Sophie** and **Portia Capplethwaite**, who were just enthralled with the

abundance and variety of Taylor's kitsch collection, in which clown portraits and masks and putrescent green ashtrays vie for attention. Portia was particularly thrilled with a velvet painting of a boy sitting on something looking vaguely sphincter-expansive, while Sophie was transfixed by a lurid, pink rubber cat with nauseating Cheshire grin.

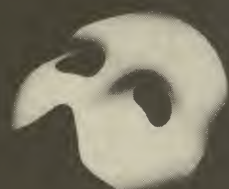
Bloody rodomontade

We recently lamented in this space about the pitiful state of homo journalism in SF, the way our motley rags veer so insanely between righteous hysteria (*B.A.R.'s* letters to the editor), woozy transcendentalism (*Bay Times*), and appalling emptiness (*Hip Pocket*). Now, just to confuse things, there's *Blood Brothers*, which, if nothing else, is as iconoclastic and ribald as it is prolix. Designed and published by **Wendell Ricketts**, who is better known around this rag as **Wendy**, *Blood Brothers* is a lively mix of nasty-dirty sex tales, poetry, fiction and endless commentary.

Lively is what distinguishes it from the aforementioned rags. Here's an excerpt from Missy Ricketts' opening rant/editorial: "Bitter? You bet I am. But not because money and political power are the true goals of our 'movement,' not because the so-called 'community' includes 'insiders' and 'outsiders' and 'haves' and 'have-nots.' That's just life under American capitalism. No, what enrages me is that the spokespeople for the 'community' — spokesmen, I should probably say for accuracy — so often refuse to acknowledge that such distinctions and divisions exist. A former political science professor once put it this way: 'Class consciousness is knowing what side of the fence you're on. Class analysis is figuring out who's there with you.'" Indeed. ▼



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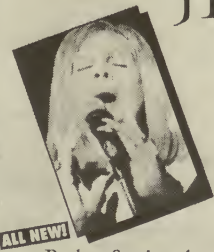
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ERIC LIBOWITZ

From left to right, Jeffrey Wright, David Bowie, Gary Oldman, and Dennis Hopper.

Basquiat

◀ Arts cover

In the first and better half of the film, Schnabel carefully sets up Basquiat's natural born ambition and developing responses to racism. The director films these early days in the East Village, where Basquiat experienced first love and first exhibitions, with a languid haze and pacing that may be the film's major aesthetic nod to its druggy milieu. Basquiat, played by *Angels in America* star Jeffrey Wright, is a kind of blank, passive-aggressive character. He bops around quietly tagging brick walls with non-sequitur graffiti and acting like a precocious but inarticulate art student. He playfully fingerpaints in pancake syrup at the diner as he flirts with the waitress (radiant newcomer Claire Forlani) who soon becomes his girlfriend.

Once Basquiat has his first major gallery success, however, the film unfortunately fast-forwards to his decline, a period that apparently has a greater link to Schnabel's ego. At this point, the director visually enters the picture. Large Warhol-style portraits of Schnabel lean against the wall behind one pivotal scene, and linger far longer than any sort of Hitchcockian walk-on. The director also appears, not as himself but as the thinly-veiled fictional artist Albert Milo, played by Gary Oldman, who is a good deal thinner and more refined than Schnabel. Milo

is the voice of artistic reason, a loving father with a palazzo-like loft/studio. In the background of one scene, assistants create a procession-like exhibition of huge Schnabel paintings. Such moments slow down the narrative and strain plausibility.

In the film's second half, Schnabel's vision of the art world's backbiting, sycophantic nature moves from subtext to foreground. The art dealers seem as bad as drug dealers, and both, apparently, will drain a young artist of his creative drive and his life, in short order. Basquiat may have used people on his way up the ladder, but the dealers seem worse. You get the point quickly with any one of the short scenes in which Parker Posey impersonates with horsey panache ruthless gallerist Mary Boone.

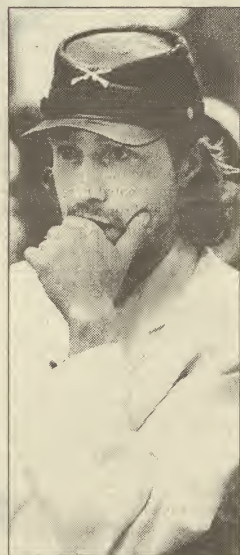
Faggot central

Schnabel does, however, maintain our interest with an entertaining web of bitchy art world habitués that includes a surprising number of gay characters. One of Basquiat's first champions was gay art critic Rene Ricard (Michael Wincott), who passionately supports the young painter but later throws a drama queen fit when Basquiat sells a painting to art dealer Bruno Bischofberger (Dennis Hopper).

Then, of course, there's Andy Warhol. When Basquiat first sees Warhol on a Soho Street, his pal Benny, played by a fabulously greasy Benicio Del Toro, calls him

"a fuckin' homo." Basquiat, ignoring the comment, plows ahead and tries to sell Warhol some little drawings of "ignorant art."

Initially, David Bowie's Warhol is a jolt. We're clearly looking at Bowie in a bad wig, aping the late



ERIC LIBOWITZ

Michael Wincott as Rene Ricard.

artist with traces of a British accent and delivering lines like a glazed, helpless Valley Girl. But as his relationship with Basquiat develops, Bowie's Warhol becomes more likable, caring, and even sympathetic.

Warhol and Basquiat develop what looks like a loving relationship, or at least a seemingly co-dependent one. When the pair works collaboratively, they both voice their insecurities and dreams. "You keep crossing all my parts out," Warhol whines. It's unclear, though, how their relationship began, and what it entailed. After Warhol dies, Schnabel gives us a long, sappy scene of a teary Basquiat showing off his attractive, shirtless body (as he often does), running grainy videos of himself with Warhol over and over in his mind. In the end, you get the feeling Schnabel has similarly fond memories of Basquiat. ▼

Basquiat opens August 16 at the Lumiere and elsewhere throughout the Bay Area.

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Kansas City bummer

Altman's wannabe musical exists in a vacuum

by Gary Morris

Self-styled cinematic "bad boys" don't always age well. Orson Welles ended his career with a bizarre mix of tacky showmanship (those unfortunately forgettable magic acts on the *Merv Griffin Show*) and fragments of films shot on the fly in Europe. Sam Fuller, no longer able to make vital cinema himself, became a sort of grizzled god figure to other auteurs. Robert Altman went from wrenching attacks on Hollywood in films like *The Big Knife* and *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* to flabby melodramas about female wrestlers. With *Kansas City*, Robert Altman joins this once-exalted company in what can only be called senility.

The things we treasured about Altman are no longer in evidence. In fact, it's hard to remember — after the stumble of *Ready to Wear*, with its endless jokes about dog shit, and now the fall with *Kansas City* — that they ever existed, at least after the late '70s. Where are the formal innovations of *Nashville*, the behavioral niceties of *McCabe and Mrs. Miller*, the satirical edge of *Three Women*? Such remarkable stylistic touches are conspicuously absent from this excruciatingly conventional, disorganized, disconnected mess of a movie.

Kansas City, set in 1934, is Altman's homage to his own *Kansas City* past; as a 15-year-old boy he was a regular at the city's black jazz clubs, reincarnated here as "The Hey Hey Club," run by Seldom Seen (Harry Belafonte). Altman introduces a number of plot threads and recurring motifs early on: musical duels by the virtuoso musicians of the day; a 14-year-old pregnant black girl who comes to the big city to have her baby; organized crime's attempts to steal an election.

The major thread of the film — more of a frayed rope — is the kidnapping of the wealthy Carolyn Stilton (Miranda Richardson), the drug-addicted wife of a presidential advisor, by two-bit moll Blondie O'Hara (Jennifer Jason Leigh). Blondie's boyfriend, Johnny (Dermot Mulroney, in a near wordless performance), disguised as a black man, has robbed one of Seldom Seen's best customers. Seldom has Johnny in custody and Blondie figures if she kidnaps Mrs. Stilton, she can force Mr. Stilton to pressure the local white gangsters to retrieve her hubby in exchange for the return of his wife.

In what must be the most leisurely, decorous kidnapping in cinema history, the two women immediately act like sisters and begin traveling throughout the city, visiting bars, offices, train stations and a home for unwed mothers. Mrs. Stilton, hazy from laudanum, has innumerable chances to escape but doesn't bother, and Blondie's tough-gal front eventually crumbles. Meanwhile, Seldom Seen gives long-winded philosophical speeches that touch on everything from Marcus Garvey to the shocking puzzle of what to do about "the white boy" (Johnny) whose black disguise, courtesy of burnt cork, seems to disturb him more than his robbery of Seldom's customers.

The acting, usually strong in Altman's films, ranges from self-indulgent (Belafonte) to remote (Richardson) to grating (Leigh) to nonexistent (Mulroney). Altman seems to have poured all his energy into the music and *mise-en-*

scene — a strategy that pays off in capturing the vitality of the black jazz scene and, intermittently, the feel of depression-era honky tonks and speakeasies. But clever trappings aren't enough. Unable to weave the film's many strands into a coherent whole, Altman relies on coincidences and unbelievable encounters to keep things moving, and it doesn't work. The jazz sequences — contemporary musicians reprising the work of legends like Lester Young and Charlie Parker — are the only real attraction, but even these disappoint in the context of the story. There are so many of them that *Kansas City* becomes, de facto, a musical, and in any good musical the music has to be integrated with the narrative. These sequences, especially the "cutting contests," seem to exist in a vacuum — like the movie. ▼

Kansas City opens in general release Friday, August 16.



Miranda Richardson and Jennifer Jason Leigh in Robert Altman's *Kansas City*.

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Kim Novak and William Holden in William Inge's *Picnic*.

Slow fade

William Inge knew great success, sorrow

by Tavo Amador

Question: who is the Pulitzer Prize- and Academy Award-winning homosexual American playwright who had a string of Broadway and movie successes in the '50s and early '60s but who is almost completely forgotten today? Answer: William Inge. This week (August 16-22), the Castro Theatre will do its part to educate the masses about this important literary figure with its revival of the superb film version of Inge's *Picnic*, the drama that earned the playwright the Pulitzer Prize in 1953. For those who want to experience Inge at his best, *Picnic* should not be missed.

William Inge was born into a lower middle-class family in Independence, Kansas in 1913. He put himself through college and graduate school by holding down a variety of odd jobs. He briefly worked as a theater critic in St. Louis, where, late in 1944, he met

Tennessee Williams, just prior to the latter's success with *The Glass Menagerie*. Williams was impressed by several of Inge's as-yet unstaged plays and recommended him to his agent, Audrey Wood, who eventually took him on as a client and arranged for a production of one of Inge's early works at the Arena Theatre in Dallas. Another play, a forerunner of *Picnic*, was produced in St. Louis around the same time, but it opened to poor notices.

To off-set the monetary vagaries of the writing life, Inge began teaching English and theatre in the late '40s. But he persevered as a dramatist. In 1950, *Come Back, Little Sheba* created a sensation. For her performance in this compassionate yet unsparing look at the consequences of brief romantic passion, actress Shirley Booth picked up all the acting awards that year and Inge was hailed the major new voice in American theater. Two years later, the film version, co-starring Burt Lancaster as

Doc, the alcoholic husband, earned Booth an Oscar for her performance as Lola, the frowzy housewife who avoids the painful present by living in the past.

Picnic opened on Broadway in 1953 to rave reviews, confirming Inge's standing. Comparisons with Williams began, which was understandable given the similarity of themes in the playwrights' work — romantic passion, physi-

page 46 ►

Peerless 'Picnic'

◀ Arts cover

true to life — the screen beautifully registers their poetic eroticism.)

Playwright William Inge brilliantly portrayed women responding to stud males who promised sexual pleasure. His dark gift was recognizing the need to surrender to such pleasures — what else is there? — and showing that the pleasure, like physical beauty, is transitory. One sees in Hal and Madge the beginnings of the disillusioned couple that Doc and Lola become in Inge's earlier work, *Come Back, Little Sheba*.

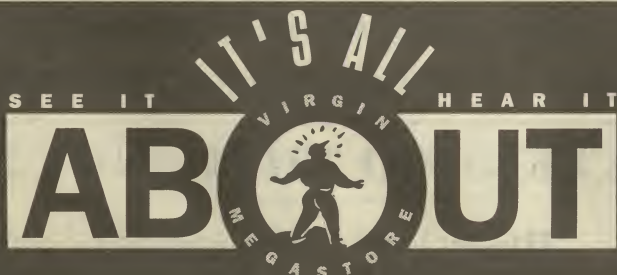
Rosalind Russell is Rosemary, an "old maid schoolteacher," desperate for marriage — it doesn't matter to whom, as long as he's ambulatory. Holden's bare chest and well-defined body have aroused and angered her; she's enraged at the way the young and attractive ignore anyone who isn't both.

Russell gives a fine-edged hysteria to a woman for whom status and self-esteem mean having a man, and for whom time is rapidly running out. Labor Day isn't just the end of her summer vacation — it's the end of the summer of her life. She faces a chilly autumn, a bleak winter, and is terrified. (Rosemary is Blanche DuBois' less promiscuous, less cultured, more strident cousin.) After having had sex with her beau (the Oscar-nominated Arthur O'Connell), she faces her future head-on, begging him to marry her. It's a heartbreaking scene and a great performance.

Susan Strasberg plays Millie, Madge's younger sister, who has brains, is going to college, and intends to avoid the beauty trap that's snared her sibling. It's marvelous to see a gay man give voice to concerns that women, even in the "fabulous '50s," had about their lives. Like Tennessee Williams, Inge realized that women had few respectable choices, and those choices generally revolved around men. If anyone has a chance for happiness, or at least independence, it's Millie.

In many ways *Picnic* is a better film than a play. Daniel Taradash's script is faithful to the original. Amazingly, a scene in which Hal tells about being picked up by a couple of Thelma and Louise-like women, who refer to him as "beefcake," give him martinis, use him sexually, and then rob him at gunpoint, was left in.

Visually, the movie is striking, opening up the play without losing its small-town claustrophobia. Long before *Blue Velvet*, Inge exposed the pain that small-town America, a place so idealized in our country's mythology, inflicts on anyone who is different, especially if that person lives in one of its neat little houses. ▼



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The cast of *The Ritz*, now playing at Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint.

Age spots

Snappy direction, fine cast save *The Ritz*

by Gary Morris

It shouldn't surprise anyone that many gay people are both attracted to and repelled by the popular art of the early days of gay liberation. Plays (and their movie counterparts) like *Norman, Is That You?*, *The Boys in the Band*, *La Cage aux Folles*, and *The Ritz* are as likely to stultify as to amuse in an era dominated by sex plagues, Republicans, and — let's face it — the evolution of the gay community. I'm not talking about the laughable detritus of the era — the chiana shirts, bell bottoms, and puka shell necklaces (though these certainly contribute to the squeamishness of modern audiences). The problem is in the way these works construct gay characters. We can no longer laugh easily at vicious emotional wrecks like Michael in *The Boys in the Band*, in spite of his often brilliantly acerbic dialogue; or at the brainless queen in *Norman, Is That You?*, who made "fabulous!" a catch-phrase in gay culture.

So Josie's revival of Terrence McNally's 1975 *The Ritz*, following fast on the heels of Mart Crowley's *The Boys in the Band* at the 450 Geary Studio, comes as something of a surprise. McNally's long string of successes, which includes *Lovel! Valour! Compassion!*, and his increasing stature as America's premier gay playwright, no doubt contributed to the decision to revive this early work, which hasn't worn particularly well.

The Ritz has a setting that was novel at the time — a gay bathhouse in Manhattan in the mid-'70s. The plot is convoluted, to put it mildly. In the opening scene, a dying Italian patriarch exacts a promise from his son Carmine (George Pelham) to kill

his son-in-law, Gaetano (Richard Wenzel). Straight Gaetano hides in "The Ritz," a fictionalized version of the infamous Continental Baths. There he's mistaken for a producer by ambitious third-rate diva Googie Gomez (Jessie Gray), harassed by chubby chaser Claude Perkins (Stuart Sherman), pursued by private detective Michael Brick (Stephen Charles Lincoln), and generally exposed to the barbs, hijinks, and sexual excesses of the bathhouse scene. There are cheesy musical sequences featuring Googie and a pair of posing go-go boy attendants, and a lip-synched Andrews Sister number performed (quite well) in drag by Gaetano and two of his "sisters."

Typical of classic farce, there's an endless stream of jokes based on mistaken identities, non-stop action, people chasing each other all over the place and hiding under beds. The humor is not character-based, and not expected to be — these are types, not people. What makes us laugh, when we do laugh, are the mechanics of the farce, for example, Claude's ever-accelerating pursuit of the unwilling Gaetano, culminating in a scene in which Claude rams his quarry's belly and screams, "My sweet jelly roll man!"

The dialogue consists mostly of one-liners of the arched-eyebrow variety: "Sex is just my way of saying hello," says Chris (Michael DeMartini). "Orgy! There's an orgy in room 240 in four minutes!" Lines like these have lost the whiff of scandal that made them funny in 1975. Googie's once-endearing malapropisms ("pull the wool over my ears") and stereotypical "Latin spitfire" routine have a musty — if not aggravating — quality that minimizes the laughs. The center-

piece of *The Ritz* is Gaetano's dilemma, a "normal" middle-aged garbageman from Cleveland who is thrust suddenly into a glittering, scary world of naked men, gender confusion, homosexuality and camp. Gay audiences, even those back in the '70s, could not have found this shocking or fascinating in the way the target audience — the Broadway/dinner theatre crowd — would have. And most modern gay viewers won't either.

Josie's revival of *The Ritz* does benefit from Michael Pulizzano's snappy direction and the actors' consistently physical approach to these shrill cartoons. Stuart Sherman is particularly vivid as the insanely tenacious chubby chaser, but his lust-object, Richard Wenzel's Gaetano, actually surpasses the script, somehow fashioning a believable characterization out of McNally's cardboard elements. ▼

The Ritz continues at Josie's through September 1. Call 861-7933 for tickets and information.

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Sleepy hollow

Uta Hagen speaks!

by Robert Julian

When Armistead Maupin, Robin Williams, Billy Crystal, and a host of local celebrities all show up for the opening of a new play, you know there has to be a reason. In the case of *Mrs. Klein*, which opened last week at the Geary Theatre, the reason is Uta Hagen — theatrical legend and the original Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* Mrs. Klein arrives in San Francisco on the first leg of a national tour, yet, despite the imposing presence of its leading lady, this juggernaut of personalities is pretty much DOA. Audience members who manage to stay awake may find themselves in a Blackglama dilemma, trying to figure out just what becomes a legend most.

Playwright Nicholas Wright places his psychiatric vivisection in the 1934 London home of therapist Melanie Klein. The real-life Mrs. Klein was a pioneering psychiatrist whose principal failing appears to have been her tendency to use her own children as the subjects of her psychological experiments. Klein's adult son has recently died, and her daughter Melitta, who is also a therapist, seizes upon his death as an op-



Amy Wright and Uta Hagen in Nicholas Wright's *Mrs. Klein*.

portunity to settle old scores with mom. The foil for their verbal sparring is one of Klein's students, Paula, played by Amy Wright as if the stage directions indicated Eve Harrington-Freud.

Nicholas Wright's 1992 play is akin to those hoary old chestnuts

fashioned by Enid Bagnold for Kate Hepburn during the latter's final days as a touring stage actress. In *Mrs. Klein*, people talk — for almost two and one-half hours — spewing psychobabble about the stage as if it were manna from heaven. Given the material

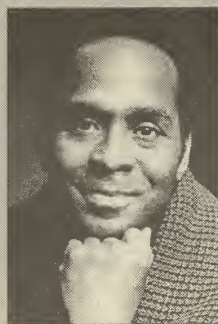
Afro Solo III

The third annual African-American Solo Performance Festival, Afro Solo, takes off August 22 at the ODC Performance Gallery at 3153 17th Street. This year's festival features renowned comedian and activist Dick Gregory in performance; a symposium; and 12 Bay Area artists in three diverse programs.

The festival highlights the work of several gay and lesbian artists, among them: Thomas R. Simpson (right), who will present *Brainwashed*, a work about inner peace and letting go (August 22). On August 23, Bay Area poet and performance artist Marvin White will present *Giving Him Strength to Fly in a Dress*, in which the writer examines blackness in relation to growing up in Oakland, his homosexuality, his family and art.

Theater Rhino director Adele Prandini will direct Alison Wright in *The Death of Queen Merchie* (August 22), in which Wright investigates how two black families deal with adversity and their reactions to the passing of the mother figure.

All shows are at ODC Performance Gallery, except the Sunday, August 25 evening with Dick Gregory (6 p.m.), which is at First Congregational Church, 432 Post at Mason Streets. For more information about Afro Solo, call 346-9344, or 621-7797. ▼



at hand, Uta Hagen's performance is quite an accomplishment, due to her ability to create and sustain a believable, if rather unlikely, character throughout. Her tendency for broad gestures and stentorian tones will be forgiven by anyone who has ever heard psychologist Jean Houston speak, although others may find the characterization just a bit too grand. Director William Carden succeeds at keeping the action moving and coaxes a fine performance from Laila Robins as the daughter, Melitta. Amy Wright fares less well with the demanding role of Paula, who must accomplish her goals by covert means.

Uta Hagen, who has taught

some of the world's finest actors, rarely appears onstage, but she is universally revered and respected as an actress. Why she chose this vehicle will probably remain a mystery for most viewers. But the greater tragedy is that it is unlikely Hagen, who is 77, will return again to perform in San Francisco. Those who wish to bask in her aura should hurry to the beautifully restored Geary Theatre prior to this show's closing on September 1. ▼

Mrs. Klein is at the Geary Theatre through September 1. For tickets (\$20-\$50), call 776-1999 or 510-762-BASS.

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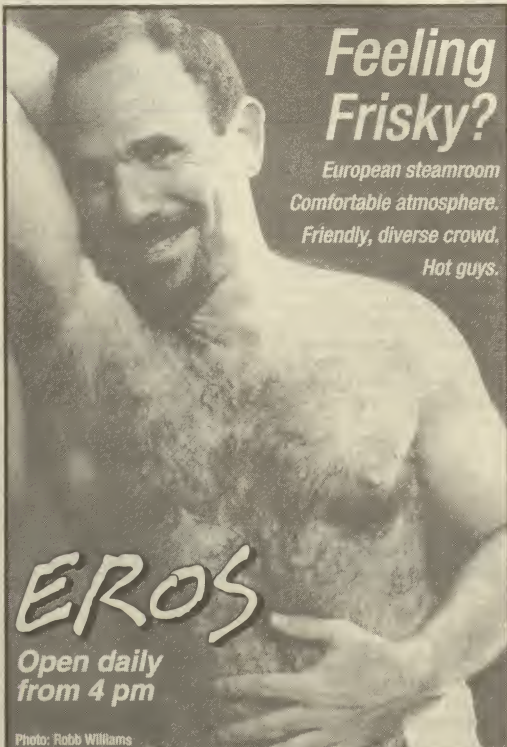


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BOOKS

Pocket pool

by Marc Vogl

Gary In Your Pocket: Stories and Notebooks of Gary Fisher, edited and with an afterword by Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick; Duke University Press, \$14.95

I guess I'm completely illogical — a latent homosexual schizophrenic bounding between white and black[,] like a gazelle," 16-year-old Gary Fisher wrote in his diary. A typical thought for a confused teenager with literary pretensions? Typical at any rate for Fisher, whose sumptuous and piquant meditations on his own short, angst-ridden life ground this posthumously published work.

Two years ago, at the age of 32, Fisher succumbed to AIDS in total obscurity in a San Francisco hospital. Though he had diligently kept a journal for half his life and wrote short stories and poems, too, his searing words would have been buried with him were it not for the promise of his mentor and friend, literary critic and queer theorist Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, to share them with others.

Perhaps because Fisher felt so "completely illogical" as a teenager, the focus of his writing is on illuminating the barriers that exist between people searching for the same things — love, meaning, self-realization. In 28 stories and poems, and in excerpts from a stunningly candid journal, Fisher takes readers on a dolorous voyage into his own fractured soul. What readers may find once they get to the core of Fisher's writing is a heightened awareness of how difficult it is to know oneself.

The author calls his tales "sinister little stories," yet they tackle gigantic issues. Grappling with the challenges of being black, gay and not fitting in are central concerns. He is adamantly opposed to any notions of racial or sexual essentialism and proves his point by narrating stories about childhood idylls and walks to the corner store in a spectrum of voices. No less important in these stories is Fisher's ever-increasingly desperate search for love, or at least some sign that he is worth something to somebody.

S&M fantasies figured prominently in Fisher's private life, and he transposes the bedroom expe-

rience to the page adroitly. In "Arabesque," he seeks to derive some validity (and approval) from being dominated by a man with a hard-on for the Intifada. But it's no use. Even as he offers himself up to be choked, kicked, mauled and fucked by the sadist in the Israeli police outfit, he is disassociated from his partner's dreams. Despite their intimacy, Fisher's protagonist is isolated: a hostage, wronged, trapped, miserable and alone.

Sedgwick has also included selections from Fisher's private journals, revelatory moments of the author's sexual awakening and ho-hum details of life as he experienced it from the time he was a high schooler at an army base in Germany to his eventual surrender to HIV in San Francisco. It's a chronology measured largely in musical tastes — from Donna Summer and the Bee Gees to Bad Brains and Fishbone, as well as a record of a writer maturing.

The episodes Fisher recounts in these pages are at times glorious in their lurid details of sex with everyone from football players and professors at the University of North Carolina to anonymous partners in Buena Vista Park. Ribald as they are, though, these confessions also reveal the insecurities Fisher grappled with while contemplating both his quest for self-realization and his own mortality. "I WANT TO LIVE [sic]," he declares while pondering for the nth time the HIV time-bomb. "But I also want to be content, I want money, education, fame, friends, and good sex; I want a relationship that lasts more than 40 minutes."

While this type of blunt, admixive writing makes for quick, straight-ahead reading, the prose sometimes bogs down, as Fisher seems more concerned with documenting every sexual encounter he ever had in San Francisco than with telling a story. Redundancies aside, though, these journal entries form an intriguing complement to the stories included in this volume, for they are frequently little more than ruminations on the stories themselves. In this respect the journals function as an answer key for a reader wondering what was passing through the author's mind as he penned a particular



Author Gary Fisher

character. Fisher's bouts of total degeneration and self-loathing (for example, his decree that he is "giving up everything to the pursuit of cocks, to the consumption of sperm and piss for no other reason than that I'm a nigger and that's what God put niggers on this earth to do") explain why, for instance, he might seek solace in tales of bygone youth.

Whether Sedgwick has any more of Fisher's work to publish is a secret known only to her. What is apparent in the stories and journals presented so far, however, is a writer with a tremendous gift for inhabiting the space that keeps people in adjoining seats miles apart, prevents lovers from ever being truly close, and distances human beings from knowing who they really are. ▼

A reading will be held at A Different Light Bookstore to celebrate the release of *Gary In Your Pocket* Sunday, August 18 at 7:30 p.m.

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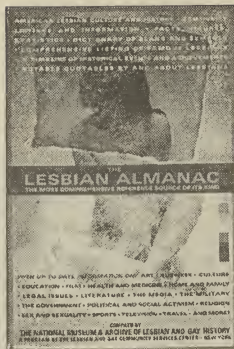
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Crap-manac

by Deborah Peifer

The Lesbian Almanac compiled by The National Museum & Archive of Lesbian and Gay History; Berkeley, \$16.95

My rule in judging the reliability of any compendium of useful facts is to check those facts I know from other sources and see whether the new work measures up. You may imagine my dismay when I discovered an egregious error on my first foray into *The Lesbian Almanac*.

According to page 286 of *The Lesbian Almanac*, Jane Rule's first novel, *Desert of the Heart*, was published by Naiad Press in 1964.

Since Naiad Press did not exist until 1973, that makes any claim for a Naiad publication in 1964 problematic in the extreme. On the next page, we learn that Naiad published Rule's *This Is Not For You* in 1970 and *Against the Season* in 1971. I think not.

The problem with mistakes like these is that they cast a shadow of doubt over all the other information in the book. For example, what are we to make of the fact that Eva Le Gallienne is not listed under the category "Lesbian/Bisexual Stage Actresses," but under "Bisexual Performers of the Past" as a "Broadway actress"? Is a Broadway actress different from a stage actress? How so? The word "some" turns up in a fair number of headings, such as "Some Famous Lesbian Artists of the Past" or "Some Reclaimed Artists Who Had Lesbian Imagery in Their Work," but does that mean the absence of the signifier "some" means that a list is complete and entire? I don't know, and the book doesn't make it clear. Why are some women designated lesbians when in other sections the term bisexual is also included? Eleanor Roosevelt, for example, is included in the list of "Notable North American Lesbians," but would she not be more appropriately designated a bisexual? And why is Marlene Dietrich included in a list of North American lesbians? Wasn't she German? Isn't Germany some distance from North America? Of course, Martina Navratilova (from Czechoslovakia), Alla Nazimova (Russia) and Mabel Mercer (Britain) are included in the North American list as well, so perhaps I am simply unclear on the meaning of the phrase "North America."

Do I seem a tad cranky? Well, I am. Sixteen dollars and ninety-five cents seems a lot to spend on an almanac this slipshod. The lists were apparently compiled off the top of a not very careful or knowledgeable head. Lesbians deserve better. ▼

Cup runneth over

by Deborah Peifer

Never Say Never by Linda Hill; Naiad, \$10.95

Never Say Never explores the first lesbian commandment: "Thou shalt not become involved with a straight woman." Leslie Howard is a smart woman who makes dumb choices when it comes to partners. Fleeing an abusive relationship, Leslie finds comfort with her old friend, Susan, and she vows to avoid the "R" word in the future. Work will become her only focus and single joy. Of course, at work Leslie is so closeted she makes up a boyfriend, which means closing off her sexuality altogether. When straight Sara drops into Leslie's life, Leslie must first decide if she can risk her friendship with Sara by coming out.

Linda Hill is a good writer. She has a real feel for the ways people

next page ►

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Histrionics

by Jeffery Kennedy

The Unsinkable Bambi Lake by Bambi Lake, with Alvin Orloff and an introduction by Exene Cervenka; Manic D Press, \$11.95

Bambi Lake, a self-described "transsexual with attitude," came to San Francisco in 1970 to make her dream come true — to become a musical theater star. Her autobiography provides a glimpse into San Francisco at this time, revealing a city that was both exciting and full of colorful people. Lake's descriptions of this era and some of its more conspicuous personalities—including Sylvester—are high points in an otherwise shallow autobiography that often reads like a poorly transcribed, one-sided telephone conversation padded with double-spacing and redundant poetry.

Early in the '70s, Lake nearly made her dream come true in Berlin. International drag icon Romy Haag liked Lake and put her to work in Haag's hot nightclub. There, she "got in a tiff with David Bowie" and sprouted hormone-induced breasts. Yet, Lake felt artistically stifled by doing pantomime. "I left Berlin where I was safe, loved, well paid, and on my way to a sure career," Lake writes. "I returned to America to ... become a legitimate singer."

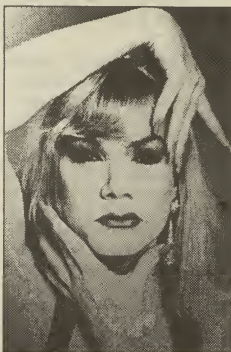
Lake returned instead to a life on the streets. She worked as a female stripper at the Galaxy in North Beach. "It was nice to work as a woman instead of a female impersonator," she muses. "The military men didn't have a lot of money, but they were the perks." As long as no one saw dick, that is. Once her male sex was uncovered, the soldiers stayed away. Later, the performer specialized in she-male sex and advertised her wares in swingers newspapers like *The Spectator*. Arrests and substance addictions were the icing on Lake's lowlife cake.

Not surprisingly, Bambi Lake's theatrical career went nowhere

during this period. Her biggest claims to fame consist of rubbing shoulders with The Clash and dancing with Siouxsie Sioux. "Not many people realize how tall she [Sioux] is," Lake breathlessly reveals, "as tall as I am, six foot three in heels." Then, in the early '80s, she toured Europe with The Stranglers, a band considered a footnote in the history of British punk. Making porn films paid the bills. "Things were looking grim," Lake admits, "but I still had my looks, new tits, and a newly trained singing voice."

Despite her optimism, Lake is the perpetual bridesmaid, standing on the sidelines and watching success pass her by. In her glamorous dream world, catching the bouquet means being famous, wearing fabulous lingerie, and chatting with punk thug Henry Rollins. Lake seems too distracted by tinsel and social maneuvering to find real satisfaction in fully exploring and expressing her ideas.

One idea that is clearly expressed, however, is Bambi Lake's desire to become a woman. Sever-



The Unsinkable Bambi Lake

al times the author says she'd undergo sex-change surgery, if she could afford it. Lake concludes the book by wistfully musing, "I wonder what my life would be like if I could pass well enough to work at a nice boutique," leaving the unhappy impression of a thwarted, lonely little in-between. ▼

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CompuQuest

Cup runneth

◀ page 38

can hurt one another. The problem with her first novel is that she has enough to say for a longish short story, and so there is filler galore, with too much repetition to make an entirely pleasurable reading experience. Side issues are mentioned and then dropped when they should be explored. The relationship between Susan and Leslie, for example, seems, at least in two lines, to be teetering on the brink of sexual congress, but, alas, that topic is adjourned without further discussion. There are also references to sexual harassment, but, despite the significance of this issue for lesbians in the work place, the subject goes unexamined.

One of the problems that young writers regularly face—including Hill—is the overloaded plot. I've read several first efforts recently that had enough plot for three Charles Dickens novels. Another problem is the writer who doesn't give readers enough texture, incident, and character to support 200-plus pages. I suspect Linda Hill will be a writer to watch in the future, but her first novel contains more promise than realization. ▼

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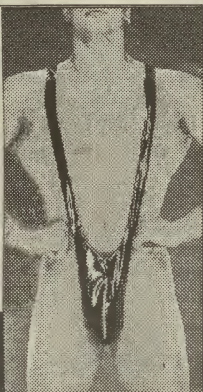
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Rite of the Inferno

by Mister Marucs

The theme of the Mr. Northern California Drummer and Drummer Boy contests in San Jose last weekend, Aug. 8-11, was "Rite of the Barbarian." However, the faithful trekkers who made it down to the Genesis Gallery in San Jose last Saturday afternoon were in unanimous agreement that it should have been dubbed "Rite of the Inferno."

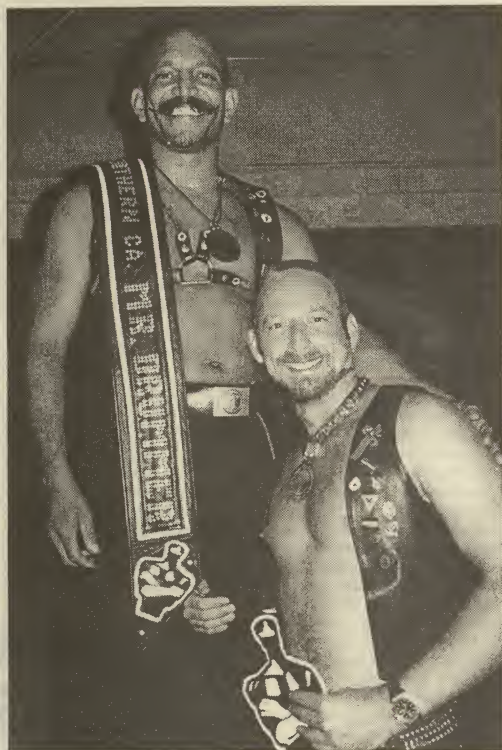
Temperatures hovered near the 100-degree mark, and needless to say, Genesis Gallery was like the inside of a broiler/roaster. The most frequently asked question was: "Why can't this contest alternate between San Jose and San Francisco?" The low turnout for the third year in a row proved that the majority of San Francisco's leather crowd won't drive to the South Bay on a Saturday afternoon and swelter in the heat while contestants vie for sashes.

To be sure, the \$15 round-trip bus ride provided by Daddy's was a very fun interlude, with Mr. SF Leather Gary Virginia the "hostess with the mostess" and Don "Ho" Tse, The Wicked Witch of the 38 Geary, trying to upstage him. A barrel of laughs coming and going. Were it not for the some 40 people on the bus, the contest would have been even more barren than it was!

Daddy Irwin Kane, dripping with sweat, emceed the very brief contest — 2 1/2 hours total! There were supposed to be four candidates, but Mr. Sacramento Drummer felt his time and effort would be best spent with his title in his home town. The Alameda County Drummer contestant fell ill, and the runner-up was nowhere to be found!

This left two candidates for the Mr. Northern California Drummer title (Taurus Webster of San Francisco and Joseph Osborne of San Jose) and three Drummer Boys (Jon Ayers of SE, Shoji Takahashi of San Jose and Todd Kepus of Alameda County) for that honor.

The Drummer Boy contest was held at Greg's Ballroom in San Jose on Friday night, but the



Northern California Mr. Drummer "Taurus" Webster and Drummer Boy Jon Ayers (kneeling) flash victory smiles Aug. 10 after being chosen to represent our region at the finals next month.

results weren't announced until Saturday just before Mr. Northern California Drummer was announced. The judges (Wolf Harmon, Daniel Sonnenfeld, Shawn Farnsworth, Omar Moseley and Mr. Drummer David W.W. Walker) scored the contestants in personal interview, physique, speech/leather image and a fantasy. The results: William O. "Taurus" Webster III is 1996 Mr. Northern California Drummer and Jon Ayers is the 1996 Northern California Drummer Boy. A barbecue at Greg's Ballroom ended the festivities on Saturday night, and the victory party was

held at Daddy's on Sunday.

This was the seventh regional Mr. Drummer contest; only four remain: Mr. Great Lakes Drummer at Herby's in Columbus, Ohio, on Saturday, Aug. 24; Mr. New England Drummer at the Boston Ramrod on Saturday, Sept. 7; Mr. Northeast Drummer in New York City on Saturday, Sept. 14; and Mr. Southern California Drummer at the Faultline in Los Angeles, also on Sept. 14.

The final count of Mr. Drummer contestants is an even dozen when you include Antonio Sanchez, Mr. Drummer Europe, who was also the second runner-up at IML last May. Got your tickets yet?

Important updates

In view of the fact that neither AmFAR nor the AIDS Emergency Fund will be producing Intl. Mr. Drummer '96 after all, Audrey Joseph of Fantastic Realities has agreed to *once more* produce the contest. Tickets for the event are \$40 for premiere seating and a VIP cocktail party and \$25 general admission. The contest will be held at 1500 Saturday afternoon, Sept. 28, at Club Townsend, 177 Townsend. Call (415) 974-6020 and enter "2" on the menu to charge tickets to your Visa, Mastercard or American Express. For general information, call the same number and enter "1" on the menu.

The host hotel is the Civic Center Holiday Inn (8th and Market), with a \$96 charge for a "double-double" room (up to four persons). Call (415) 626-6103 and mention Drummer for that rate. Do not, repeat, *do not* call the Holiday Inn 800 number for reservations.

The contestants' basket auction is at the Eagle on Wednesday night, Sept. 25, at 2100. Come and bid on regional goodies supplied by the contestants themselves. The proceeds benefit the Mr.



At last! A photo of the 1996 Intl. Ms. Leather Jill Carter, chosen last month in Philadelphia.

LEATHER SCENE

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, Aug. 15

If you're a trivia queen, you'll love the Constantines MC's "Trivia Mania" beer bust (\$6) at Daddy's, beginning at 2000. Raffle and a cash prize, and it all benefits Rita Rockett's Sunday brunches at SFGH.

Weekend, Aug. 16-19

The second annual Intl. Fantasy weekend at The Max in Omaha, produced by D. Logan and B. Ewing. I hope outgoing Mr. Fantasy J.D. Buchert of Dallas shows up to pass his sash; he was a no-show at Mr. Northern California Drummer last weekend in San Jose.

Friday, Aug. 16

Free and anonymous HIV testing upstairs at 933 Harrison, 2200 to half-past midnight. Thanks to Brad Grant and the AIDS Health Project.

Sunday, Aug. 18

Golden Gate Guards host a fabulous Eagle beer bust, 1600-1900, \$8, food - plus auctioning off massages by some of our best bone crushers. All for Paradigm. Don't miss it!

Astro sign Leo birthday party, 1600-2000, \$6, a benefit for SMMILE and GSF, at the Lone Star, with Frisch bear art door prizes and raffle prizes.

Auctioneer Mr. SF Leather Gary Virginia and comedian TJ.

Free entertainment at Hamburger Mary's, beginning at 2100. This week's group is Absent Irls.

Wednesday, Aug. 21

Defenders MC beer bust at Daddy's, 2000-2300, \$6, benefiting ICF Grant Fund.

Underwear Buddies at 933 Harrison. Doors open 2000-2200 with mandatory clothes check. Call 979-0537 for details, etc.

Thursday, Aug. 22

SF Leather Daddy's Boy Steven Crouse and Northern California Drummer Boy Jon Ayers host "Boys Night at Daddy's" (no price given), with a beer bust, entertainment, fantasies and a human clothespin line, raffle and auction. Benefits AEF. Call 733-9197 if you want to get "pinned" or flogged.

Friday, Aug. 23

Philip Turner's Leather Extravaganza '96, 2030 to midnight, 3731 16th St., with open bar, food (by Caffè Luna Piena), commemorative pin, silent auction and entertainment by Donna Sachet and Brian Benamati. \$35/advance, \$50/door and more. Tix available at Daddy's. Call 621-8550 or 621-8732 for more info.

Drummer '96 travel fund. Thursday night, Sept. 26, is the press party. Come and meet all the Mr. Drummer contestants, the Drummer Boys and the judges. The pre-judging interviews (not open to the public) are Friday morning, and the contest itself is Saturday afternoon. I have received no details on the Fetish & Fantasy show. The Folsom St. Fair is on Sunday, Sept. 29. Drummer tickets will also be available at select SF outlets. Stay tuned.

Atlantic upheaval

If you're a regular at the Cen-

taur MC's annual Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather weekend (usually in January) in Washington, D.C., be hereby advised that because of the presidential inauguration, the dates have been changed to Feb. 14-16. There are no vacant hotel rooms available anywhere in D.C. inauguration weekend.

At this deadline, no host hotel has been designated due to the fact that the usual hotel is being demolished. The search is underway for a new venue. If you need more info, call the Centaur MC hotline (202) 388-1010.

The beer bust at the Eagle last

Sunday was festive; all the Northern California Drummer contestants and boys were sharing beer-pouring duties with Intl. Mr. Drummer David W.W. Walker. The whole crowd sang "Happy Birthday" to Dowager Daddy Cornelius Conroy, celebrating his 45th birthday with a carrot cake! Hmmm. It was very, very festive. The new Drummer celebs retired to Daddy's for a victory party, but being too pooped to pop after the San Jose inferno (plus having this column still to write), I called it a weekend. Sorry you missed all the action! ▼

Champagne shenanigans

by Sweet Lips

Yes, people do tend to lose all restraint when those bubbles hit their nostrils. Even I tend to get a little giddy and — I don't know — girlish. A second blush of youth, I guess. That's why there'll be a line of mimosas awaiting me at the champagne brunch to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund's Every Penny Counts project at The Gate (1093 Pine) on Sunday, August 25, at 11 a.m. Hosting this soiree will be the inimitable "Mare" Quinn, the effervescent Beverly Plaza and, of course, that legendary Lady of the Planks, The Widow Norton, Empress I Jose Sarria. (I hear Jose is going to shock everyone and *not* make a speech.) Don't miss the fab street faire that'll be raging outside!

So many birthdays, so little time. It's true we're all getting older and not a whit wiser, as is evidenced by the following birthday beauties. Natal greetings go out, first and foremost, to the Queen Mother of All California and Its Various Satellites, the Eternal Ms. Greta Grass of Company (1319 California) fame, and Kenny Allison of the Giraffe (1131 Polk), both on Aug. 15. Now, their total years are well over 100, but a little bird told me that the girl with the most girth is by far the elder.

Also, it's time to blow out the candles for Darrell Wright (formerly of the Gangway), who'll be having his 50th do on Monday, Aug. 26, at 2 p.m. at the P.S. (1121 Polk), with munchies by Dennis



"A thing of beauty is a joy forever."

"Cheese Whiz and Chutney" Tyler. In addition, on Aug. 26, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Giraffe, Emperor Bobby Pace and that fountain of youth, Czarina Sweet

Lips, will be hosting a 50th birthday bash for the ever popular Emperor Steve Rascher. This is a fundraiser for both the Tijuana AIDS Project and the 25th Jubilee of the Council of Emperors, with food by magic chef Dennis "Matzo and Mangos" Tyler. Help give Steve a shove into middle age!

That wonderful Dolly Dale will be back on the plank at the Polk Rendezvous (1303 Polk) on Monday, Aug. 19, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., after being in Alabama for a few

weeks visiting her ailing mother, Agnes.

I apologize to my faithful readership for not answering my fan mail, but I've been too busy enjoying my new employment at the P.R. (Fri.-Sun., 9 a.m.-3 p.m.) — such a pleasant change from that rather dreary place I was formerly associated with for much too long. Manager Rick Brown is a doll and doing great things. Tuesdays are Buddy Nite from 6 to 9 p.m., so bring your best bud with you and get him sloshed for free! Miller and Budweiser products are only a buck all day Wednesdays.

To the reader who wrote in extolling the considerable charms of bartender Tom Simpson of Ginger's Trois ("strikingly handsome," "fabulous red hair,"

"perfect manners," "dressed to perfection," etc.), rest assured that I soon will be checking him out. I've always had a weakness for true redheads; nothing like a burning bush to get me in the mood!

And to the reader who expressed surprise at my fondness for Céline, yes, it's true that I probably do seem like more of a Balzac aficionado (having always identified with Cousin Bette), but if my life isn't *Death on the Installment Plan*, then what is? And to Arno Ledbetter in Moraga, no, I know of no plans to make this column a weekly rather than a bi-weekly affair, but if the clamor grows loud enough, who knows? ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman

Fri 16

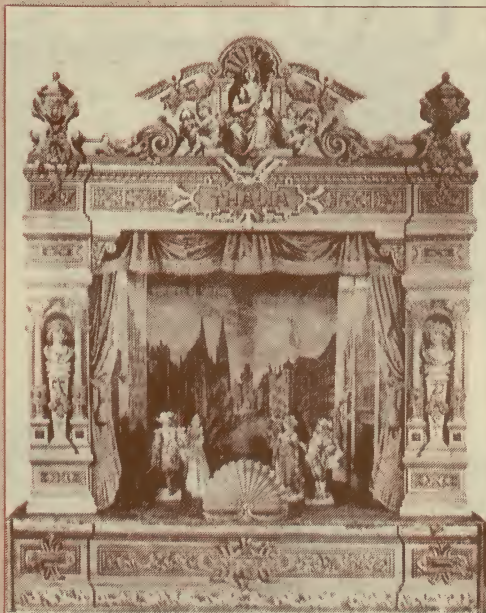
Tiny theater

A modest exhibition of toy theaters now showing at the San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum turns out to be a small delight. "Play: The Art of Toy Theater" presents a collection of miniature models of classic proscenium-arch stages conceived as playthings for Nineteenth Century children. The toys were typically made of wood or cardboard, to which paper scenery, props, and actors could be added, and imaginary shows mounted. Apart from their curio value, the miniatures are useful artifacts in documenting actual theaters and productions from the 1800s.

The SF PALM exhibit, drawn from its own archives as well as private collections, includes fully constructed and assembled stages from England (where the toy theaters were given the lofty title, "Juvenile Drama"), Germany ("Papiertheater"), Spain ("El teatro de los Niños"), Denmark ("Duketeater"), France ("Imagerie Francaise"), Austria ("Kindertheater"), and the United States. It's interesting to notice national differences in the toys, some of which so painstakingly replicate their models that even backstage lines and tackles are represented. Perhaps the most fascinating toy theater is the Danish, in which a fantasy landscape serves as almost hallucinatory backdrop.

A video of a toy theater performance screens continually. It makes us wonder: what would the toy theater of a contemporary production look like? Tiny paper cut-out gayboy characters doffing their tiny paper cut-out panties and running around a tiny living room set? And look, sitting on the aisle—there's a toy Chad Jones! ▼

"Play: The Art of Toy Theatre" remains on view at SF PALM, 399 Grove Street, through August 24. Call 255-4800 for more information.



Thalia proscenium, Schmidt and Roma, circa 1890

David Tuller

Reading from "Cracks in the Iron Closet: Travels in Gay & Lesbian Russia," free. 7:30pm. Boadecia's Books, 398 Colusa, Kensington. (510) 559-9184.

Draggin' It Out

"N' Puttin' It On," cabaret fundraiser, hosted by Miss Monique, Miss Gay South Bay. \$20 advance, \$25 door. 6pm. Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 175 Stockton, San Jose.

Ecstasy Lounge

The only private social and sensual club for women in the nation: dance, massage, strip show, lesbian lap dancing. \$25. Doors 9pm. Call for info. 985-5252.

Hot Pants Homo

F. Allen Sawyer's comedy celebrates turgid passions and purple prose. Fri. & Sat. thru 8/31 at 8:30pm. \$10. Lavender Lounge Gallery, 1042 Folsom. 673-8335.

In Bed with Fairy Butch

Coed queer erotic cabaret: David Mills, lezzie accordion act Inga & Ilse, more. \$7. Doors 8pm, show 9:30pm. 139 8th St. 626-2337.

Inner Limits/Outer Bounds

Dance, theater, music and improvisation by Hilary Bryan and Dawn Frank, exploring the nature of boundaries. Thurs.-Sat. thru 8/24 at 8pm. \$10. Dancers' Group/Footwork, 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

Jim Bailey

"Live in Concert," portrayals of Barbra Streisand, Judy Garland. Tues.-Sun. thru 9/1 at 8pm. Call for prices, 2 drink minimum. Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter. 885-2800.

Larry Myers

Plays by NY playwright Myers, including "Cha Cha to

the Outer Limits" featuring Helen Schumaker, and "The Ashes of Jerry Garcia." Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 8/17. \$12. Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy. 558-8172.

Liquid Soap

Improvised soap opera, audience steers the plot. Fridays at 10:30pm thru 8/23. \$10. Cable Car Theater, 430 Mason. 241-8887.

MACT Video Night

Men of All Colors Together present "Dona Herlinda and Her Son." \$3. 7pm. 633 Ivy. 675-0201.

Recuerdos de España

Theatre Flamenco's 30th anniversary tour, West Coast Spanish dance company. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm. \$18-30. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason. 392-4400.

The Ritz

New production of Terrence McNally's 1975 Broadway comedy. Thru 9/1, call for dates & times. \$14-16. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

This Side of Butch

Karla Carmony, Amy Boyd and Fontana Butterfield in skits, videos, tunes, spoofs and "interpretive" dancing. Wed.-Sun. thru 8/18 at 8pm. \$12. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

West Side Story

Musical theatre classic returns. Tues.-Sun. thru 8/17, call for times. \$25-60. Tonight at 8pm. Golden Gate Theatre, 1 Taylor. 776-1999.

Sat 17

Body Positive

Potluck for social group of healthy-minded HIV+ single guys. 7:30pm. Call for info: 241-1579.

Burn This

Lambert Productions and Mark Monroe Studios present Lanford Wilson's play, opens tonight at 8pm. Sat. & Sun. thru 9/8, call for times. \$10. Trinity Episcopal, Bush/Gough. 951-0226.

An Evening of Elegance

Black Women's Xchange's annual prom, attire semi-formal. \$12 advance, \$15 door. 9:30pm. La Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berkeley. (510) 835-3038.

John Embling

Photography of architectural & sculptural images of SF, thru 10/2. Derek Silva Community Lobby, 1594 Market.

MCC Summer Concert

MCC choirs and chamber orchestra perform Schubert, Purcell, and Bach, free. 8pm. Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka. 865-4434.

Pierced Hearts and True Love:

"A Century of Drawings for Tattoos" exhibit, Tues.-Sun. thru 8/18. Also: "The Addition and Subtraction of Skin," works by Dorothy Cross and David Ireland, and "The Studio Museum in

Harlem." \$4. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Runway 1996

Gay Asian Pacific Alliance pageant crowns Mr. and Miss GAPA. \$16-25. 7pm. Hotel Nikko, 222 Mason. 282-GAPA.

Shakespeare in the Gardens

Luminaria, a Latino Shakespeare company, presents "A Midsummer Night's Dream," free. Sat. & Sun. thru 8/18. Yerba Buena Gardens, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Women at Work

Mixed media exhibit of work by 30 women artists. Tues.-Sat. thru 8/23. ARTwork Gallery, 1837 Divisadero. 673-3080.

Sun 18

Antiques and Collectibles

Jerry Barrad's antiques and collectibles market is open 8:30-5 p.m. every Sunday at Pier 29, Sansome at Embarcadero. Admission is \$2; parking plus admission is \$5.

Full Frontal

Steve Stewart and Jamoo, editors of guides to nude scenes and gay porn. Porn star Kevin Kramer appears in jockstrap. 3:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Night of 5 Stars

Lisa Gray, Joseph Lustig, Gail Wilson, Rick Weaver and Patty Wolfe perform cabaret to benefit Lesbian/Gay Chorus of SF. \$25. Sun. & Mon. at 8pm. \$25. Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter. 885-2800.

Pergamon:

"The Telephos Frieze from the Great Altar" exhibition,

thru 9/8. \$7. Palace of the Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park, 34th & Clement. 863-3330.

The Spirit of Jazz

Billy Harper Quintet, Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir perform African American spirituals and contemporary jazz, free. 2pm. Stern Grove, 19th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

Summer Camp

John Fisher's musical comedy exploration of a gay aesthetic, free, for one performance only. 12:30pm. Yerba Buena Gardens, 701 Mission. 978-2787.

Mon 19

Clubfoot Orchestra

Playing Nina Rota. \$4. 9pm. Bruno's, 2389 Mission. 550-7455.

Codependency and Relationships

Free SF Comm. College course begins tonight, 6:30pm. Everett Middle School, 450 Church. 585-5212.

Gay Comedy Open Mike

MC Hank Donat. Aspiring queer comics sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Inspiration and Innovation:

"Helen Keller and the American Foundation for the Blind," exhibition of achievements of visually impaired Americans. Mon.-Fri. thru 9/6. One Market Plaza, Concourse Level. 392-4845.

Juxtaposed:

Twenty-five artists exhibit large-scale works, incl. Paul Cadmus, Jacob Collins, Ran-

1996 Afro Solo Festival III presents Luana in "Mama part II" at ODC Performance Gallery. See Thursday for listing.

dall Lake. Mon.-Sat. thru 9/7. John Pence Gallery, 750 Post. 441-1138.

Lesbian and Gay Aging

City College class taught by author Margaret Cruikshank on social construction of aging, begins tonight, 6:30pm. Everett Middle School, 450 Church. 239-3146 x3.

Perfect Enemies

Journalists Chris Bull and John Gallagher discuss their book on the rise of the religious right in American politics, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

R. Sharon Speller

Lesbian erotic b&w photos, "You're Lookin' at uh Lezzy," thru 9/14. Stormy Leather, 1158 Howard. 487-1966.

Tues 20

Erotic Writing

Ongoing Tuesday evening writing classes, 7-9pm. Grasshopper Palace, 333 Valencia St., Room #460 near 14th St. (above Gold's Gym). 552-6324.

Gay Male Relationships

City College class taught by author Rik Isensee, LCSW, begins tonight. 6:30pm. Everett Middle School, 17th & Church.

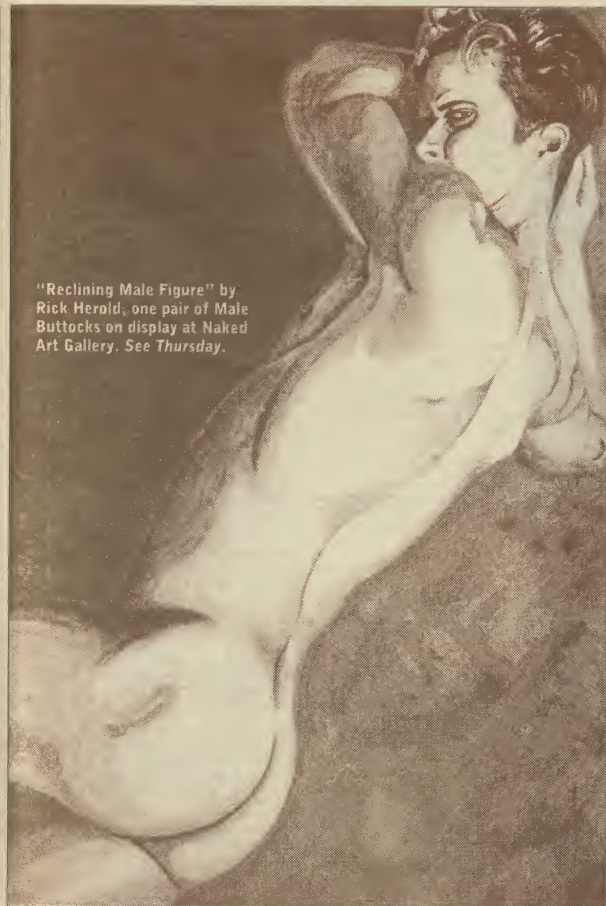
Gildardo Enrique

Paintings of childhood and desire. Tues.-Sat. thru 9/24. Cowboys & Angels, 207 Powell. 362-8516.

Highlights from Vancouver

Review of medical advances presented at XI Internat'l Conf. on AIDS, presented by Dr. Thomas Sharpton, free.

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"Reclining Male Figure" by Rick Herold, one pair of Male Buttocks on display at Naked Art Gallery. See Thursday.

6:30pm. Rm 1200C, Kaiser Permanente, 280 W. MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. (510) 596-6848.

Mrs. Klein

Uta Hagen stars in Nicholas Wright's psychological suspense drama. Tues.-Sun. thru 9/1, call for times. \$20-50. Tonight at 8pm. Geary Theater, 415 Geary. 776-1999.

Off the Track

SF performers Marilyn Pittman, Sally Dana, Beth Lisseck, Andre the Wonder Woman. \$8. 8pm. Cable Car Theatre, 430 Mason. 956-8497.

Out of the Skin:

"Work by Tattooers" incl. Don Ed Hardy, Mike Malone. Thru 8/24. Braunstein/Quay Gallery, 250 Sutter. 392-5532.

Polaroid Transfers

Images by Geoffrey Hindle, with "Printing out Prints" by Nigel Poor, thru 8/31. Mulligan-Shanoski, 747 Post. 771-0663.

QTV-San Francisco

Weekly lesbian & gay programming, incl. medical advice from Dr. Lisa Capalindi. 7pm. Cable Channel 47.

Serpentine:

"Tales of divine femininity,"

found objects and mixed media by Alena Cochran, thru Aug. Cat's Grill and Alley Club, 1190 Folsom. 431-3332.

Tapestry

International group show of pictorial tapestry. Thru 9/8. Artfibers Gallery, 124 Sutter. 956-6319.

The Towering Inferno

Sick and Twisted Players' spectacular staging of the epic 70s disaster film opens tonight. Tues. thru 10/1. \$10. Transmission Theatre, 314 11th St. 826-5358.

Wed 21

Classical Influence in Dress

Costumes reflecting ancient Greek, Roman and Egyptian styles, thru 8/22. Catharine Clark Gallery, 49 Geary Street. 399-1439.

Consumption

Group exhibition and eating fest, thru 8/22. Catharine Clark Gallery, 49 Geary Street. 399-1439.

Glenn Ligon

New work: struggles of cultural and sexual identity.

Thru 8/25. \$7. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Intimacy Class

For Gay Men, informal lecture and workshop, "Self-Esteem: How it impacts dating & how to improve it," 8pm. \$20. Call for info: 252-9085.

Mission Noise

Rhythmic poetry and theatrical banter by Mission artists Harriet Dodge, DramaDIVAS and Latinas in Theatre, Los Tricksters, and Ras Mo. \$5. 7:30pm. Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama. 863-2141.

Paris Modern:

"The Swedish Ballet 1920-1925," exhibition about the avant-garde dance co. Thru 9/29. \$7. Palace of Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park, 34th Ave. & Clement. 863-3330.

Picasso at the Lapin Agile

Steve Martin's comedy featuring the NY cast. Tues.-Sun., extended thru 11/3. Tonight at 8pm, call for times. \$25-38. Theatre on the Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.

Play:

"The Art of Toy Theater" exhibition, free. Thru 8/24. SF Performing Arts Library & Museum, 399 Grove. 255-4800.

Plug

Dennis Trainor's new comedy, a vision of the future. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 8/24. \$12-14. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Robert Brokl

Works from "Travel Notes" series exhibited. Wed.-Sun. thru 9/1. The Collectors Gallery, 1000 Oak, Oakland. (510) 834-2296.

Same Sex Salsa

Beginners Workshop with Ava Apple. Weds. thru 8/28, 7pm. \$9 drop-in rate. Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission, Studio 1. 681-8140.

Scenes from an Execution

Howard Barker's play, a post-modern portrait of the role of the artist in society, opens tonight at 8pm. Runs Thurs.-Sun. thru 9/15 at 8pm. \$12-14. Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th St. 267-1836.

Thur 22

Afro Solo

African-American Solo Performance Festival opens with theatre/dance performances by Luana, Michael Lange, Thomas Robert Simpson and Alison Wright. \$12. 8pm. ODC Performance Gallery, 3153 17th St. 621-7797.

Exploring Scapes

Photography and design by Wm. Kirk Moore, Dave Bush and Ron Heikes, reception today, 5pm. Mon.-Fri. thru 10/25. Michael Thompson Gallery, 1 Sutter. 391-7795.

Gay/Lesbian Literature

Group meets monthly for books and coffee. 7pm. Borders Books and Music, 4575 Rosewood, Pleasanton. (510) 227-1412.

Male Buttocks

New paintings by Rick Herold on reverse vinyl. Thurs.-Sat. thru 9/21. Naked Art Gallery, 355 Bryant #110. 284-0567.

Nothing Matters

Group evidence of why. Artists include Bob Ortball, Gay Outlaw, Norma Yorba. Thru 8/31. Refusalon, 20 Hawthorne. 546-0158.

Savage Nights

The Savage Jazz Dance Company with M.B. Hanif Quintet. 10pm. \$3. Cafe du Nord, 2170 Market. 861-5016.

SF School of Ab Ex

Exhibition of works by SF abstract expressionist artists, incl. Diebenkorn, Francis & Stull. Thru 9/29. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Tea-Time

Bi-monthly "talk show"-style community forum on "the challenges of being a single black gay man in the Bay Area," free, call for time. Brothers Network, 973 Market. 356-8140.

WANNA SUBMIT?

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Fried Calamari or Cajun Oysters.....5.25

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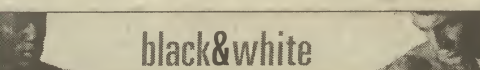
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INTERVIEW MAGAZINE

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Hats off to Jeffrey Wright.

Janet Suchy

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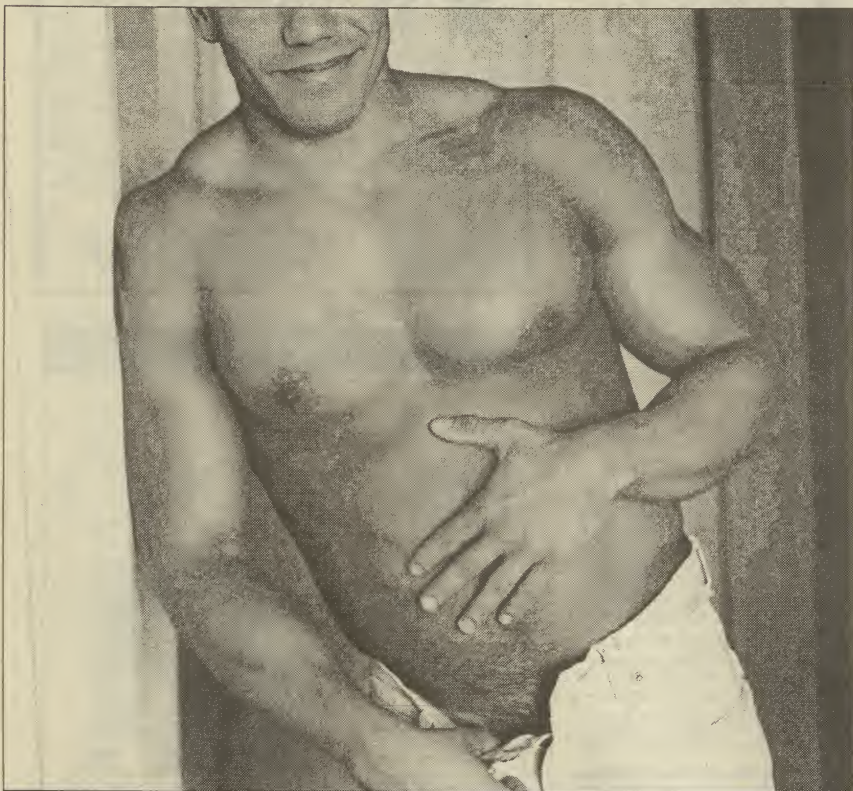
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Gay Asian Pacific Alliance crowns Mr. & Miss GAPA at Runway 1996, at the Hotel Nikko. See Saturday's listing.

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PARTING GLANCES

Yamaha Man

You pass me every morning near Upper Terrace & Buena Vista on your bike at 6:30AM. Sometimes you nod. I'm the big red head w/the dog. ☎ 2101.

Safeway Mill Valley

Friday 7/19, 12:30PM. You: tall, blond, wearing shorts & counting inventory. Me: USA T-shirt, shorts, baseball cap, wishing I'd said hello. Give me a call. ☎ 2102.

Lou The Dentist

We met at "My Place" on 7/20. I wanted to chat longer & see you again. Maybe invite you to Mendocino. Get in touch! ☎ 2103.

John Bolt, Where Are You?

I think about you all the time. I was going to SFSU while you were at SJSU. Let's rekindle our flame. I miss you! ☎ 2104.

37 Corbett Bus 7/21 6:00 PM

You: tall, slight gray on sides of hair, walkman on, untucked gray shirt, smiled at me when I got off. Me: boyish w/red T-shirt, tattoos. Want to meet you. ☎ 2105.

Walgreens & #24 Bus Midway

That's where we met. You: tall, Mexican, w/a friend, SF school worker on vacation. We talked, clicked I thought. I gave you my #, wish you'd call. ☎ 2106.

Les 7/19 Vista Point

You were on a break from work. Said I had nice nipples. I may have a boyfriend but that devilish smile of your won't leave my mind. Let's hook up. ☎ 2107.

Jason! Red Hair/Goatee

You were walking on Sharon St. w/ cute friend (brown hair/goatee), July 16th. Over heard, your birthday is the 28th. Let's celebrate. ☎ 2108.

Blacksands Red Cap 7/21

First time being there in 3 yrs, 5 for me. Serendipity fished teal cap from surf "nice catch," absolutely. Did I notice hesitation when it came time for you to go. Truly liked the ring. ☎ 2158.

BART To N. Concord 4:30 7/19

You have dark hair, great smile. I wear glasses & was reading a magazine. Don't know why I didn't jump off train after you. Call me, let's meet! ☎ 2201.

New Desk Guy At Central Y

I joked with you about making passes at men who wear glasses & you blushed. You're too cute! Please tell me that you're single. We can start there. ☎ 2202.

Tower Video 7/28

You: handsome WM, black sandals, shorts, eyes hidden by sunglasses. Me: BM, white T-shirt, jeans, brown slippers, sunglasses. I turned, but I was with a guest. Let's talk. ☎ 2203.

Leticia's 7/28 Brunch

Handsome man w/glasses dining alone. Would like to chat w/you. Moi: tall, goateed male w/glasses, eyeing you. Was part of dining trio. ☎ 2204.

Ben Ben Ben Ben Ben

Where are you? Please call. Gary. ☎ 2205.

Stonewall @ The Castro Sun 7/28

2 PM show. I was sitting a couple rows ahead of your right. Me: Latino, blk hair, gray hooded sweatshirt, shorts. Pls call if interested. Maybe, coffee or drink? ☎ 2206.

Dore Alley Fair

You were selling T-shirts, silver hair, grn eyes, nice body. I was too shy to ask you for more. Let's talk. Blonde boy. ☎ 2301.

Dore Alley 7/28

You: cute Asian, glasses, blue T-shirt & jeans. Me: blond, beard, white T-shirt & shorts. Would like to talk. ☎ 2302.

Howard July 27

We've met twice, same place. In six months. Both times were fantastic. I'm wishing I took your number or the ride home. I want to know more about you. Ric. ☎ 2303.

Sun 8/4 Blk Sands Red Shorts

You: tall slender, sunglasses & red suit walked by me. We kept up the stare. Let's do more, call. ☎ 2304.

Sausage Factory Sunday Night

I watched you. You left. You stopped, looked back, you almost came back in. I stayed seated. Not one of my better moves. Please call. Larry. ☎ 2359.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Seeking Submissive GAM, GLM

Mature GWM, trim & in shape, looking for Asian or Latin boy anxious to serve & obey. You must be 5'10" or less & smooth. Pos OK. ☎ 2109.

Wanted

Hopeful, romantic, Nordic God who is not totally consumed w/looks. I enjoy quiet times at home, fine dining, all types of music, & sunsets. ☎ 2110.

This Great Dane Is No Bow-Wow

GWM, 30+, 5'8 1/2" 155#, blond/hzl, smooth, hung, gldking seeks fur-covered fantasy man to make our dreams come true. Candles, dinner, ropes? Hmml! Extremely hairy—please call. ☎ 2111.

Asian Looking For Friends

Gldking Asian student, 30 yo, 5'7", 145#, HIV-, new in the gay scene. Need someone who'll help w/English. You're GWM, under 40, weight & height must be proportion. ☎ 2112

Daddy, Older Brother

You: son/younger bro, under 30, masc, good shape, who needs a caring friend, disciplinarian. Dad/bro is successful GWM, 38, 6', 250#, balding. Limits respected. ☎ 2113.

Looking For A Friend???

HIV+, GWM, 36, 125#, East Contra Costa area. Seeking other HIV+ who enjoy life, w/ similar interests, & who want to have fun. Serious only. Let's get together to talk. ☎ 2114.

Where Are You?

GWM, 27, 5'8", blond, looking for Mr. Right. We are both, masculine, physically fit, attractive & HIV-. You: top. Me: bottom. ☎ 2124.

Boyfriend Wanted

Great guy, cute, well-built, athletic, sks brwny, rugged athletic man for dating cuddling, & strong, intense pleasure. Not a sex-only ad. ☎ 2115.

Leather Buddy Wanted

Gldking, GWM, professional, 46, 5'8", 150#, NS, HIV-, hairy, must be versatile. Enjoy gym, travel, sports, leather, romance, cuddling & cooking. Seeking a leather buddy, 28-46, into romance. ☎ 2116.

Tall, Hot, & Handsome...

GWM, 43, 6', 170#, in-shape top ISO bottom boys for dating & possible LTR. Like outdoor sex & indoor toys. Asian A+. HIV+ OK. Your briefs get mine! ☎ 2117.

Hungry Subm. Bottom Wanted

Hot man, 58, 5'8", 135#, good build wants gldking oral bottom. I'm very verbal, aggressive & caring. Call if you are in good shape & eager to please. ☎ 2118.

GWM Seeks Christian GAM

Christian GWM, 46, 5'10", 160#, NS, ND, trim, in-shape, seeks Christian GAM, trim, in-shape, for serious dating. Friendship, respect, love. No sex unless dating leads to a monogamous LTR. ☎ 2119.

GBM Seeks GAM

Exceptional 33, 6'1", 195#, clean cut, athletic, well-built, masculine, sensitive seeks independent Asian man for relationship. Age not important. Height & weight well proportioned. ☎ 2120.

A Gentleman & A Perv

Attractive, healthy, HIV+, GWM, 46, 5'10", 170#, brown hair (balding), hazel eyes, mustache, hairy, seeks nice guy in life, nasty man in bed, for dates, sex, possible LTR. ☎ 2121.

I Want You

GBM, HIV+, very clean & healthy, 39, 5'6", 135#, want to meet you. Looking for LTR. Call let's chat. GBM only. San Jose A+. ☎ 2122.

East Bay HIV+ Latin Top Wanted

I like m'GM, dark skin & thick. WM, HIV+, 34, blue, brown, 6', 180# in Concord needs boyfriend LTR w/Capricorn or Virgo. ☎ 2123.

Irishman

33, 5'10" 180#, HIV- dark, handsome, interest include outdoors, movies, ceramics, computer graphics, seeks stable, relationship minded, hairy guy, 30-45. No drugs NS preferred. ☎ 2125.

A Fremont Guy!

Handsome, masculine, East Bay WM top, 47, 6', 185#, light brown buzz, clean shaven, HIV-, NS, seeking similar, younger (26-36), clean cut, HIV-, very masculine WM for a hot LTR. ☎ 2127.

Hispanic Boyfriend Wanted

35-45, in shape, for romance, good times, good sex, versatile. I'm a young looking 53, handsome, Italian, 5'11", 175#, versatile, romantic, love sex, & waiting for your call. ☎ 2128.

GWM Hot Tops

GWM visitor from Palm Springs in the city from 8/22-27 seeks companionship, sex, good times. You: GWM, studly top, somewhat dominant, younger. Me: looking for poss LTR, intelligent, 55, 5'11", 190#, healthy HIV+. ☎ 2129.

Body Positive

We are a social group for health minded, HIV+, single men. We have monthly potluck social as well as special weekend events. This is a great way to meet new friends. ☎ 2159.

Stanford, San Sweetie-Pie Guy

31, 6'5", 220#, blond, cyclist, fun gregarious, midwest, friendly, balanced natural, very intelligent, Stanford area. You: under 35, healthy, natural, brave, fearless. ☎ 2207.

Too Busy At Home

This East Bay guy would like to meet someone who feels good about themselves & appreciates a sexy, smart man, like to have fun w/the right guy. ☎ 2208.

Attn: White/Latin/Ital Nudists

GWM bear type, 37, 6'2", 225#, dark hair, blue/green eyes, mod hairy. Like guys 25-45, slim/mod build or h/wt prop. tactile & sensual. Get naked, cuddle, watch movies, play, talk. Redheads & uncuts A+. ☎ 2209.

EuroAmerican Seeks Other Half

Looking for Asian/Latino NS to form relationship. Attractive 6', 180#, professional, top, searching for versatile, educated, cute life partner under 35. ☎ 2210.

Seeking Real Love

GWM, 27, brn/blu, 5'7", 145#, sks poss relationship w/GWM or G Native American. I'm honest, sincere, caring, NS/ND. No fake people. Honest replies only. ☎ 2211.

Romantic/Attract Asian Sk GWM

For friend pos. more, NS/ND, HIV-, under 50. Enjoy reading, walking, dining out/movies on the weekend/homecooking, W/H prop. Romance on reg basis. Slender/versatile A+. ☎ 2212.

Handsome Muscular Italian

GWM, 38, 6'2", 185#, into fitness, travel, romance & good times seeks another HIV-, extremely well hung man for monogamous relationships. ☎ 2213.

Looking For A Life Change?

WM, 42, masculine, gldking, muscular, mustache, HIV+, healthy, seeks same. Tired of rat race, want to move to Palm Springs. Looking for buddy/soul mate. ☎ 2214.

Finally Ready?

Seeking slender, tall guy (long hair?). I'm sincere, outgoing GWM, 6'2", 200#, mid 40's, trim beard, blue eyes, balding w/spytail. Looking for very affectionate, articulate man w/humor & heart. Respect of 12-steps, NS preferred. ☎ 2215.

Q Positive

19 yo, QWM, tired of 3-week flings. Seeking responsible, thin, semi-anal-retentive, clean-cut, Vegetarian QWM (18-23ish) for food, gossip & dance. Scientifically-minded/community-oriented A+. No pedophiles please. ☎ 2216.

Attractive Blonde 25

I'm 5'7", 170#, blond, brown eyes, muscular, masculine, Latin/Italian descent. Seeking whites or Latins 21-35 for friendship or maybe LTR. ☎ 2217

Are You A Top Under 5'9", 160#?

I have an attractive face, a bright white smile, brown skin, a trace of an accent & a compact little ass. You must be attractive, 34-45. HIV OK. ☎ 2218.

Black Guy Dreds, Beard, 40

160#, 6'1", HIV-. I'm into wild natural stuff. Live in cabin in the mountains. I'm very spiritual also. Looking for friends. ND/NS/NA. ☎ 2219.

Help Me Get Off

W, HIV+, 38, 145#, needs a butt plugged. Turn on: extra stinky hairy pits, uncult dick. You must be black/brown. Into TT & HIV+. ☎ 2220.

Goodlooking Latino 29

5'11", 190#, dark skin, eyes, hair, HIV-, seeking Latins or Whites, 22-35, for friendship maybe more. ☎ 2221.

Chubby Chaser Wanted

GWM, 36, 5'11", 300#, HIV-, hairy bottom. I'm prof. fun, romantic. I seek an HIV-, in shape, top man for dating. Poss LTR. ☎ 2222.

Work All Night? Play All Day?

Serious 28 yo, looking to meet other professionals who work at night. Your schedule must be conducive to mine. Let's chat. ☎ 2223.

Hot Cuban Dad Lng 4 Big Boy

Hsm, fit, 5'11", 170#, 8.5" uncut, domn/affectionate needs 'Big Boy' w/very large hands who loves to cuddle. ☎ 2265.

Strict But Caring Leather Daddy

Seeks obedient boy, 25-35, short, slim or gym-toned for domination, bondage, moderate SM, boot service, dog training, theater & symphony. Brains a must, good looks, tattoos, piercings desirable. ☎ 2266.

GBM Seeks Mr. Wonderful

Affectionate, handsome GBM, 39, 6'3", top/hung, looking for nice time. Friendship-poss. lover. Serious guys only. ☎ 2305.

Body And Soul, I Want It All!

GWPM spiritual yet earthy, intellectual yet practical seeks GWM, 30-45, in EB. or SF. Movies, music, reading, gym, cooking, travel. ☎ 2306.

GAM Sks GWM 4 Friend/LTR

Asian top seeks trim/slender GWM, 30's-40's for friend/more/LTR. HIV-, NS/ND, healthy, honest, caring/affectionate, open communication. Ready to settle down. ☎ 2307.

Nylon/Spandex Tights-Sensual

Florida GWPM seeks friends in SF Bay. Plan to relocate in 97. I love the look & feel of stretchy fabrics, not drag. Love outdoors & cats. ☎ 2308.

New York Energy Wanted!

Italian/Latin, 34-44, masc, trim, loves laughter, sun, football, oldies, fireplace cuddling. Try me: boomer, strawberry/blond, 5'10", 159#, HIV-, libran. ☎ 2309.

Brother Man Wanted In My Life

WM, 58, 5'6", 137#, gray/blue. Your age weight, height open. Enjoy old movies, new videos, vanilla added to chocolate makes a delightful swirl. Call bro. ☎ 2310.

Big Cock Big Heart

Sexy, loving, GWM top, 55, 6', 185#, HIV-, prof, AIDS widower, ready to love again. Ideal for me: loving, cute/handsome, bright, sexy, masculine bottom, about 35-45. ☎ 2311.

Poetic Man Of Color

I would like to meet you. I'm 5'7", tone, young & of Irish decent. I've a rhythmic nature & enjoy erudite musical men who aren't intimidated by bitter-sweet honesty. ☎ 2312.

Not Endowed Or A Greek God

But a slim, fit, youthful early 50's professional GWM, nice guy & a great bottom. We are both HIV-, non-smokers/users, many interests, & you are 50's or older. ☎ 2313.

WM, Masc. S/P Blue 5'11", 175#

Spiritual musc, heart passion vers/oral NS/ND, seeks same/sim. +s: Irish/It, beard stache, vers interest, tall hairy. ☎ 2314.

Need A New Boyfriend?

WM, 52 (looks 30's), 5'11", 155#, clean shave, NS/ND, HIV-, looking for AM, 25-35, short, slim, for LTR monogamous. Like 60's-80's music, theater, dining, travel, scuba, photography, movies, dancing, cats. Affectionate, loyal, marriage-minded. Outstanding opportunity for the right person. ☎ 2315.

Nice Guy Into Boots

And more. New to SF wants to meet guys w/similar interests. Prefer bottom position only, 6'2", 180#, bl/bl, average good looks seeks same. ☎ 2316.

I'm A Beginner, Teach Me Well

Seeking attractive Asian & Latino men, 18-30 (6'-10" uncult), preferably to teach me whatever you know I'm 18, 6'1", 200#, HIV-. But we take it slow. I'm white/Hispanic & I'm looking for a relationship. ☎ 2317.

Let's play In The East Bay

Tired of mind games, bars, trolls? I'm a 28 yo, Asian looking for someone. If your serious, somewhat intelligent, give me a call. ☎ 2318.

Are You Out There?

Nice looking 53, GWM, HIV-, NS, 5'8", 162#, clean cut, personable, educated, loving, romantic & seeks special GWM (34-48). Be honest, know how to communicate, like to cuddle & have a heart. ☎ 2319.

Gay WM Santa Rosa

Great looking, musc, hung seeks fuck buddy for ass eating & fucking. HIV-. I love eating a guy's hole. You won't be sorry. ☎ 2320.

Asian Athletes Wanted

Asian wants to meet other Asian athletes who love tennis, wrestling, bowling & sports in general. ☎ 2321.

LESBIAN

Living In The Mountains

GWM looking for a nice lady to talk to, go places & do things with. Enjoy life. ☎ 2322.

SEEKING ADVENTURE

ISO Haird Dad For Play & Passion
Blond boy, blue eyes looking for someone who can show me SF, a good time, followed by imaginative sex, kissing, cuddling. Maybe more. ☎ 2130.

Very Slim Masculine, 18-25?
Kick back & enjoy oral service & hangout w/masculine, athletic, affectionate, friendly, respectful, intelligent, generous WM, 45, 5'9", 145#. Must be very slim, masculine. ☎ 2131.

East My Ass
ISO serious ass eaters for long sessions, afternoons or evenings. Rim-seats & slings a plus. GWM, 50, 5'10", 155#, short crew cut, hairy body, shaved 6" uncult cock & balls. ☎ 2132.

Yo Big Guy, Let Me...
GWM, 45, 6', 165#, seeks a dominant guy to nuzzle. I'm hairy, salt/pepper, swimmer, hot to serve you cock worship fantasies. UB: 30-50, in shape, sensitive. ☎ 2133.

Feel My Bushy Mustache
In your crack while I tongue drill your hot butt. Me: 36, 6'10", brn/bl, hot WM. You: hot & ready. ☎ 2228.

Sturdy Young Lad Wanted
40 something top seeks sturdy bottom in need of loving discipline. My dad told me he beat me because he loved me. I'd like to set you "straight." ☎ 2134.

Hung Men Of Color
Under 44 yo, in shape, 35 yo, tall, handsome blond, bottom has 2 openings for you. Be hung, decent shape, & fun. ☎ 2135.

Super Sucker Seeks Super Meat
U: hung 8+, 22-45 yo, in shape, dark features. Me: 35 yo, tall, gldking, blond w/deep needs wants to meet yours. No recip nec. ☎ 2136.

Cum
Horny Italian, masculine, bi, 39, 5'9", 165#, w/ thick 8" dick & big load, seeks hungry, masculine, young gldking males to suck me off. I want to feed you. ☎ 2137.

You're A Lean Hairy Submissive
Clean, honest, reliable, NS, tall, dark-haired, over 35, STD-, need brutally handsome, sexy, built, youthful 50's top. No brutality or raunch. Safe sex only. LTR possible. No South Bay. ☎ 2138.

Rip Wrestle Or Box You
Let's get it on. WM, 49, 5'10", 175#, thick chest hair, masculine, HIV-, likes rough aggression w/men, safe, your place a +, SF or Sacto. ☎ 2139.

East Bay Bottom/Versatile
GWM wants sex partner(s) on a regular basis. I'm 44, HIV-, 5'11", brn/blu, 160#. Like to suck & my ass fucked. Tape on video? ☎ 2140.

Let's Eat & Fuck
Versatile, 5'11", well built, hung big, need Cau men, 20-30's, well built w/ big hairy bubble butt to eat & fuck. ☎ 2141.

Wanted Latino Topman
36 yo, BM, 6' 1 1/2", (bottom) is in search of a Latino top man who knows how to take control. Have it your way. ☎ 2142.

Tall, Lean Crewcut, Blue Eyes...
6'2", 175#, clean shaved, masc, athletic, attractive WM seeks similar WM, who is well hung, top & fun for hot, safe fun on a regular basis. Under 32 pref. ☎ 2143.

Seeking Long Tongued Latin
For weekly oral service front & back. I'm a gldking, 6', 190#, 34 yo, WM in the E. Bay. With long brown hair & goatee. I'm waiting to be serviced. ☎ 2144.

Slam Fuck My Hairy Ass
Then bust a hot load up this masculine, 6', 185#, 38 yo, HIV+, goatee brown H/E; you under 45, decent shape, facial hair, hung, masculine & w/wild streak. ☎ 2145.

Yellow Hanky Right Pocket
Thirsty, HIV-, GAM, 5'4", 146#, 34 yo, muscular. Seeking only HIV- men into BJ, piss & cum. Prefer in shape, blk, wht, lat, 25-45 yo, w/avg. sz dicks (4-7). No fucking, drugs, S&M, or verbal abuse. HIV- a must. ☎ 2146.

Hot Musc Day Sex Fuck Buddy
If you ever wanted to have hot discreet sex w/ a very musc BM. I'm 28, 5'10", 190#, very well hung, straight American acting. Looking for another hot musc, buddy, under 35 yo. ☎ 2147.

Seeking A Cockucking Boy
Who likes bondage & needs a butt padding. You be under 35 yo & 5'10". I'm 37 yo, 5'11", 173#, w/gym toned body. ☎ 2148.

R U Uncut??
WM, 30's, cut, seeks W/H males w/foreplay for occasional play. UB: fit, masculine. Uncut couples A+. ☎ 2149.

Suck Connoisseurs!
6'12" piece—hours stamina—mature attractive man invites serious suckers—No teeth very welcome—Looks not important. Mike after July 31. ☎ 2150.

Dominant Older Seeks Yng. Sub.
GWM, 72, 5'8", 165#. Enjoys being a Dad or Master to an under 40 gay or bi-curious boy who prefers serving a mature man on an ongoing basis. ☎ 2224.

Gray Fox Wants Same
GWM, 56, bald, S&P goatee & mustache, hairy chest, HIV-, uncult w/late slit, 6', 175#. You: HIV-, fit, trim, NS/ND. Afternoon sex, your place in SF, safe & mostly voyeuristic. ☎ 2225.

Vallejo Fuck Buddy
Looking for dick. Worshipper & cock slave in Vallejo. I'm HIV+, 5'8", 135#, 44, brn/haz, mustache. Are you hungry? Call me. ☎ 2226.

Ass Pig Top
ISO experienced bottoms for long ass play sessions afternoons or evenings. GWM, 50, 5'10", 155#, brn/blm, clean shave, short crew cut, hairy ass. ☎ 2227.

Hot Fireman & Paramedics
Excellent full-body Swedish massage free by experienced gldking man, 6'11", 175#, 43. Table. Genuine only. Because you're doing a great job. ☎ 2229.

Black Top Guy Wanted
WM, East Bay, 6', 160#, HIV-, 44 yo, brn/blu want to service cock, balls, ass, arm pits etc. Nice guy & discreet. ☎ 2230.

Aggressive & Hot & Nasty?
Lean, muscular GWM 5'8", 155#, hairy, goatee, hot pecs, 40, excellent shape, HIV- I like sweaty sex maybe parrying, fantasies. You: well-built, sexy, honest. ☎ 2231.

Got A Prince Albert?
You: GWM, 25-45, attractive, HIV-, great body, hairy chest, nice dick w/a Prince Albert-like it played with. Me: GWM, 45, 6'2", HIV-, great mouth. ☎ 2232.

Expert Cocksucker
Senior GWM, 57", 130#, begs to worship mask, verbal, topman, over 40, wgt. proportion. Cauc or Asian. ☎ 2233.

Yng "Daddy" Sks Boys To Train
28 yo, nurturing leather bear cub is seeking boys 18-35 for training growth & instruction, as well as, fun & nasty scenes. Me: 27, bedroom blues, brn, 5'10", 200#, large frame (46 coat) & very handsome. ☎ 2234.

Senior Suck Parties
At an East Bay hotel for horny, mature men & a few of our admirers. Clip-in for the room & direct contact phone # (no exceptions) required. ☎ 2235.

Attention HIV- Hairy Tops
Tall, handsome, HIV-, GWM w/mustache, versatile bottom, seeks gldking, hairy GWM's w/facial hair for adventures in & out of the sack. Very good at being a bottom. ☎ 2236.

Hayward Man Seeking Fuckers
Horny Hispanic in his 20's ISO GWM 24-35, to play w/my ass, then mount me big time to his content, no huge dicks please. ☎ 2237.

From Russia With Love?
Amerikansky, 35 yo, 185#, muscular seeks thin to muscular native Russians for sex, fun, & companionship. ☎ 2238.

JO Buddies Wanted (SF To SJ)
This 43 yo, GWM enjoys meeting w/guys in reasonable shape. 30-50 preferred. ☎ 2239.

Just Shut-Up & Ride
30, WM, 5'10", 195#, blond/blue, clean-cut, musc, guy wants riders—Rough/tough guys a +. R U man enough? ☎ 2240.

Husky Hairy Bear
Hairy masculine bear, 6', 200#, looking for hairy JO buddy. Into hot verbal man to man sex. Sniffing, licking, talking dirty. Hairy a must. E. Bay only. Take a chance, leave a message. S 2338.

Senza Attitude
Screw the hole. Pos WM, 36, seeks fitness oriented butt doggers for hot sessions. Your # gets mine. ☎ 2241.

Husky Bottom ISO Sweaty Tops
Gldking, GWM, 40, 5'10", 235#, brown hair, hazel eyes, mustache, GKP, FR/A, HIV-, needs dominant, verbal tops for hot steamy scenes. Age, race, looks, size unimportant. Please use me, sir! ☎ 2232.

Balding Beer-Bellied, Mature
Black man, hung too big for curious amateurs, needs committed deep-throat experts to drain me at least 4 times a week. All races welcome. East Bay. ☎ 2234.

Top Adventurer/Companion
Who'll fuck you like a hole, treat you like a king. Master, 5'10", 170#, 40, brn/bl, goatee seeks lean, facial hair, 25-50. Small/medium frame. HIV-, recycled drinker a +. ☎ 2235.

Best Head In Town
GWM, 40+, deep throat love to suck cock 7" better, any race, age, uncult, the best sensuous only. ☎ 2236.

Smegma Lover
GWM, 45, HIV-, loves uncult, any age race 7" or better. Leave detailed message down town location. ☎ 2237.

Tattooed Skinhead Into Kink
Looking for nasty, straight acting, alternative looking extra hung, clean shaven, white bottom boy, early 20's, by masculine top, 32, 5'8", 155#, HIV-, brown hair, blue eyes, clean shaven tattooed, pierced. ☎ 2238.

Turning 40 It's Now Or Never!!!
Help me live out my fantasy. Share my asshole & then see how many fingers you can get in there. Handsome GWM/5'11", 175#, good body. ☎ 2239.

Pump It Up
Pump freaks wanted for hot sessions w/follow-on play. GWM, 50, 5'10", 155#, clean shaven, short crew cut, hairy body, shaved cock & balls. Castro area, afternoons & evenings. ☎ 2230.

Leather Pig Bottom Boy
5'8", 145#, very hairy, loves to please, seeks dominant tall men who need to be pleased regularly. Satisfaction guaranteed. ☎ 2231.

Voyeur Seeks Exhibitionist
Do you like to show it off? I like to watch. Love of dick & JO more important than appearance. Your place only. ☎ 2232.

Hot Hungry Blk Butt
GBM, 42, masc, HIV+, 5'9", 135#, smooth. Needs hot masc, 20-45, into sucking, tiplay, rimming, parrying & who loves to fuck a tight butt. Cum fuck this hungry ass. Versatile w/ the right guy. ☎ 2233.

Let's Wrestle!
Turned on by wrestling? This muscular, handsome GWM invites you to fulfill your erotic wrestling fantasies. Go ahead & call me, you won't be disappointed. ☎ 2234.

River Phoenix Look-Alike
Looking for gentlemen for secret rendezvous adventure to sail the seven seas & beyond. ☎ 2235.

Glory Hole
Expert Fr/Gr service by 36, WM, very fit, very hot. Looking for level wearin, pelvis pushing wrangler type for anonymous sex. Be fit. Be hot. Serious only. ☎ 2236.

Very Well Built Masculine Dad
Wanted by young hairy slim son w/8". I worship & suck. If shaved ass I rim. If shaved armpits I lick. Must have shaved balls. ☎ 2237.

Husky Hairy Bear
Hairy masculine bear, 6', 200#, looking for hairy JO buddy. Into hot verbal man to man sex. Sniffing, licking, talking dirty. Hairy a must. E. Bay only. Take a chance, leave a message. S 2338.

Dad Seeks Boy-Roles/Other
Me: fit, together, direct, respectful of limits. Boy: responsive, eager. We enjoy footage, titplay. ☎ 2235.

Hot Nasty Sexual Fun
Like getting it? Hot hard GWM top wants to tease your butt & make your body quiver till u're ready to blow your load. UB: 25-45 yo, GWM/GLM, good shape. ☎ 2234.

2 Hot Guys Want Third
We're top & bottom, both blonde, 30's, handsome, hung, & like it to sizzle. You are 21-45, hung, versatile & want it hot! ☎ 2235.

Top Hung 8 1/2 & Hot Bottom
Want you if your hung, adventurous & 19-40. We are 30's, handsome & want to make a sandwich, we'll let you be the meat! ☎ 2236.

Nuzzle Your Nozzle?
Hose & nozzle need through drain job? Call your friendly, local, nice guy whose clearer: GWM, 40s, 6', 170#, clipped hair, SP beard. Reliable penile plumbing—free! ☎ 2237.

FETISHES

Mature Bootlicker
With respectful attitude will worship, service, clean, polish your shoes, boots, sneakers, sox, feet, toes!!!! ☎ 2151.

Daytime Asshole Eater
Have your asshole eaten by a pro. Call. ☎ 2152.

Full Service Sewer Threat
Services rank, hairy assed tops, verbal abuse, piss, sack, BD, cheesy uncult, spitters. I'm hairy, tattooed, hot bodied, eager cocker. Heavy duty attitude. Over 40 A+. ☎ 2153.

Black Man
Mid 40's, great shape, physically/mentally & just loves smelly, cheesy uncult (late fifties & older men). Beerbellies & feet also turns me on. Let's not miss this opportunity! ☎ 2154.

Thick Meaty Tits
On a hard chest need work. Masculine, muscular guy seeks other hot, built guys for hot, hard tit workouts. Show off those big nipples! ☎ 2242.

Suck/Rim Me & I'll Piss On You
Me: attractive 43 yo, 5'9", 150#, HIV-, big dick & tasty hole; you: attractive pig bottom, 25-45, HIV-. ☎ 2252.

Yes!
GWM, 40's, loves being spanked. 5'8", 155#, bl/bl balding, HIV-, cut cock, smooth butt. ☎ 2243.

Facial-Haired Brother Sought
Who, like me, is under 33, cute, handsome, loving, hairy cut, slim, masculine, likes mutual, safe fucking, sucking, ass-eating, pissing/shitting on each other—relationship oriented. ☎ 2244.

Corporal Punishment Haight St.
Have your asshole massaged by floggers. May reciprocate w/other adult gentlemen. ☎ 2245.

Filthy Street Feet
GWM, 28, slim into natural barefoot lifestyle: always barefoot, everywhere. Wants similar guys w/tough, filthy feet for barefoot outings on grimy streets. Will worship your filthy feet; mutual OK. ☎ 2246.

Scat Pig
Hdsm WM, 32yo, dk hair, mustache, lean, hot hungry mouth; seeks: hairy, healthy, hot white men, under 40 yo, good build, round butt, take big hard dumps. ☎ 2247.

Leather & Coup Uniforms
GAM seeking other GWMs into full leather & cycle cop uniforms w/all boots for leather fantasies. Prefer HIV-, NS/ND, serious replies only. ☎ 2247.

Nice Guy Loves Barefeet
Lifelong excitement looking at & fantasizing about men's barefeet. Gldking East Bay GWM, 5'9", trim, tan, HIV-, loves reciprocal kissing, licking, massaging barefoot & sensual/safe all over body play. ☎ 2248.

Sensual Bondage Milkings
Let's take turns very slowly milking/sucking our cocks while comfortably spread-eagled. I love TT, shaving, multiple loads. Fantasies OK. 47, 6', 175#, hot horny. Your place only. All ages/races. ☎ 2249.

Uncut Cock Smegma Lover
44 yo, GWM worshiper of uncircumcised cocks wishes to gently & lovingly wash smegma off of them. No feds, flakes, hustlers. ☎ 2250.

Large Daddy Seeks Younger Sluts
Top bear, 54, 6', 300#, seeks intense bottom in his 30's or younger & slim; into discipline, kink, ranch & love & affection. ☎ 2251.

Dirty Top
Into scat fantasies being sweaty, in good shape, hairy, 42, long hair, into underwear, bottoms in suits, uniforms A+. ☎ 2253.

Let's Pan For Gold
Meet a down to earth masculine blonde for hot, sweaty leather/rubber action in East Bay; need top into leather/light S/M/kink. Me: boyish 30, 5'6, 136#. ☎ 2254.

Oral Slave
Bi sexual man 37, seeks dominant men. Please sir, allow me to worship you. Enjoy cock torment, flogging, paddles & humiliation. ☎ 2255.

Piss Training Requested
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Love to stick my stick in em. Leave phone number for private GH or time & date for public GH. Weeknights or weekends. ☎ 2239.

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Spankings over knee, bed or chair, with hand, paddle or strap. Older, big & firm disciplinarians welcome. I'm 37, 6'2", 195#, HIV-. Make my ass blister. ☎ 2240.

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This hairy 41 yo, LM seeks a young punk-looking type WM w/ a hot mouth & tongue to give me slow sensual oral service all over. ☎ 2241.

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William Inge

◀ page 34

cal beauty and its inevitable decay, virile males and the women who become dependent upon them. But there were also differences between these writers, not the least of which were Inge's own streak of tragic fatalism and his middle-class, Midwestern background.

In 1956, Harry Cohn, head of Columbia Studios, decided to make Kim Novak a star in *Picnic*, and it worked. William Holden was signed for the male lead, and Joshua Logan, who had directed the play, agreed to direct. The movie was a hit, in large part because of the chemistry between Novak and Holden. The actress had enjoyed mild success in several other vehicles, but no other picture captured more effectively Novak's shy, sensitive, sensual gauchoes.

After *Picnic*, Inge had a third hit, *Bus Stop* (1955), starring Kim Stanley. It, too, was made into a film (1956) starring yet another beautiful blonde, Marilyn Monroe. Inge closed the decade with *The Dark at the Top of the Stairs*, which Brooks Atkinson of *The New York Times* hailed as his "finest." *Dark* was made into a haunting film as well, starring Robert Preston and Dorothy Maguire, but it didn't do well commercially. Inge's next play, *A Loss of Roses*, flopped, and later became an unsuccessful movie, *The Stripper* (1963), starring Joanne Woodward.

Inge won an Oscar in 1961 for his original screenplay, *Splendor in the Grass*, an evocative, passionate story of first love. The film, directed by Elia Kazan, featured Natalie Wood alongside Warren Beatty, who made his screen debut with this film. Once again, Inge showed that romantic passion is wonderful but doesn't guarantee happiness.

As the decade wore on, Inge continued to write. Noteworthy from this period was his adaptation for the screen of James Leo Herlihy's novel *All Fall Down* (1962). But by the mid-'60s the decline had set in. Unhappy about his homosexuality, plagued by alcoholism and chronic shyness, Inge grew increasingly reclusive and depressed. Finally, on June 5, 1973, he overdosed on drugs and was admitted to a hospital. He checked himself out the next day and was found dead that night by his sister in the garage of his Beverly Hills home. He had committed suicide by inhaling carbon monoxide. He was 60 years old.

Let's hope that the Castro's screening of *Picnic* will launch a much-deserved reappraisal of this great work and artist. Like Williams, Inge exposed the less wholesome side of the '50s, a decade recalled with fondness by some, with derision by others.

Anyone interested in learning more about William Inge should pick up a copy of Ralph F. Voss's excellent biography, *A Life of William Inge: The Strength of Triumph*. (University of Kansas; \$12.95). ▼

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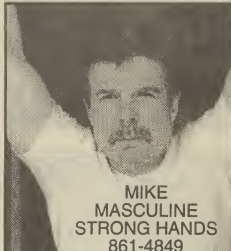
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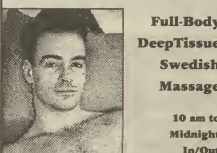
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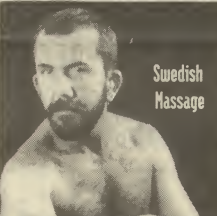
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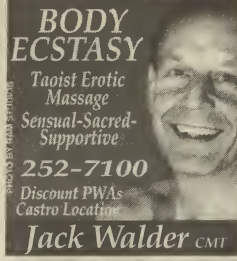
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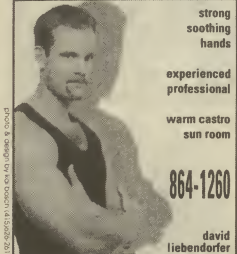
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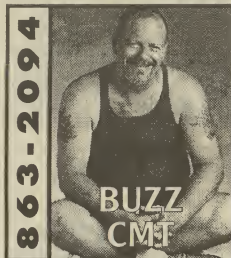
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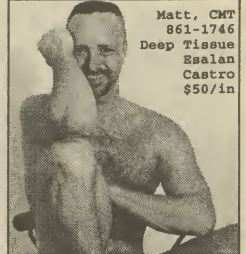
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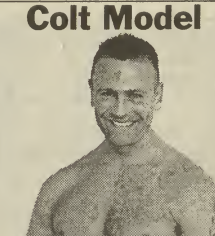
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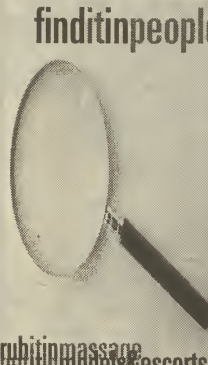
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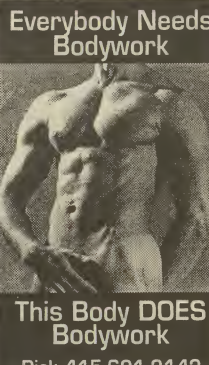
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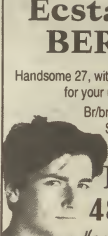
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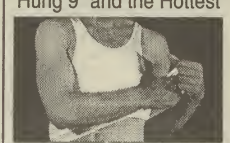
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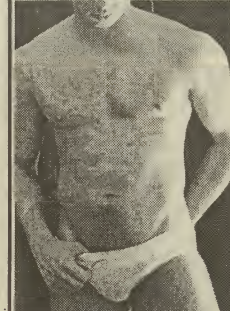
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MODELS/ESCORTS

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my
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Exceptionally
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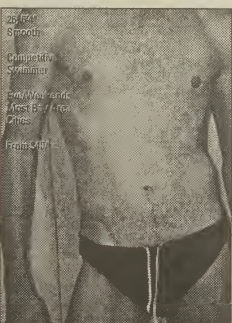
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9+THICK
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6FT, SMOOTH SWIMMER'S
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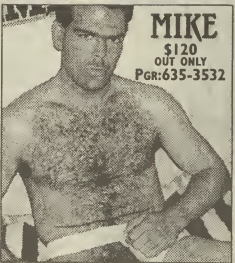
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Sexy, versatile.
Out Only Troy 208-1165 \$100

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Daniel 621-7525

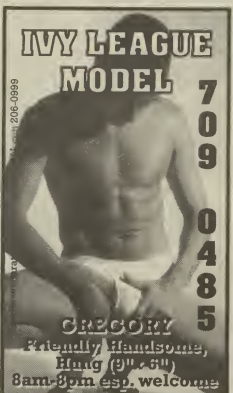
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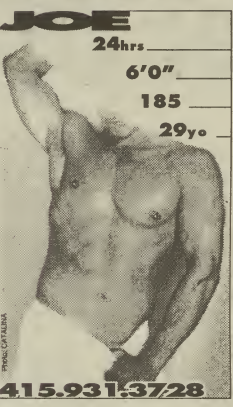
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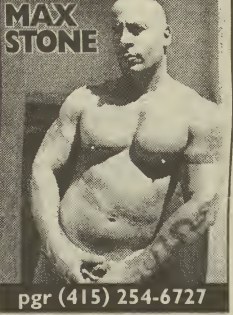
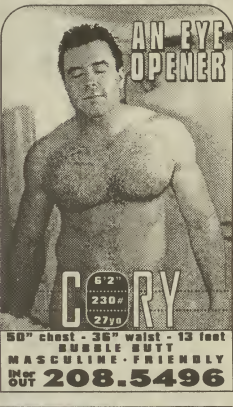
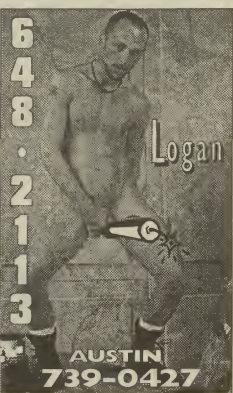
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